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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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POLL RESULTS

What do you use: paper, plastic, or reusable bags?

Paper	5
Plastic	49
Reusable bags	14
Others	5

Sunday, August 03, 2008

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Big Profits
Six of the major international oil companies top $50 billion in combined profit for the first time.
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In Charge
The 53-year old Kevin Costner seems to have fully assumed the posture of an aging cowboy.
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Study: NMI needs to do more to prevent minor sex trafficking

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The CNMI is at a critical point in preventing domestic minor sex trafficking, a founder of a national organization aimed at preventing human trafficking said Saturday.

Linda Smith, founder of Shared Hope International, shared the results of an assessment the organization conducted on island with several juvenile welfare agencies in April. CNMI was one of 10 locations examined.

Although the CNMI has taken steps to prevent and prosecute human trafficking cases, a major problem is a lack of identification for domestic minor cases, Smith said. Many sexual abuse cases are not examined for minor sex trafficking.

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Smith

8 DCM workers remain unpaid

'We just want the money due us for our families'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Eight foreign workers of the Guam-based DCM Group Inc. have not been getting their wages and overtime pay for almost two months now and are surviving only through donations from religious groups and concerned individuals on Saipan.

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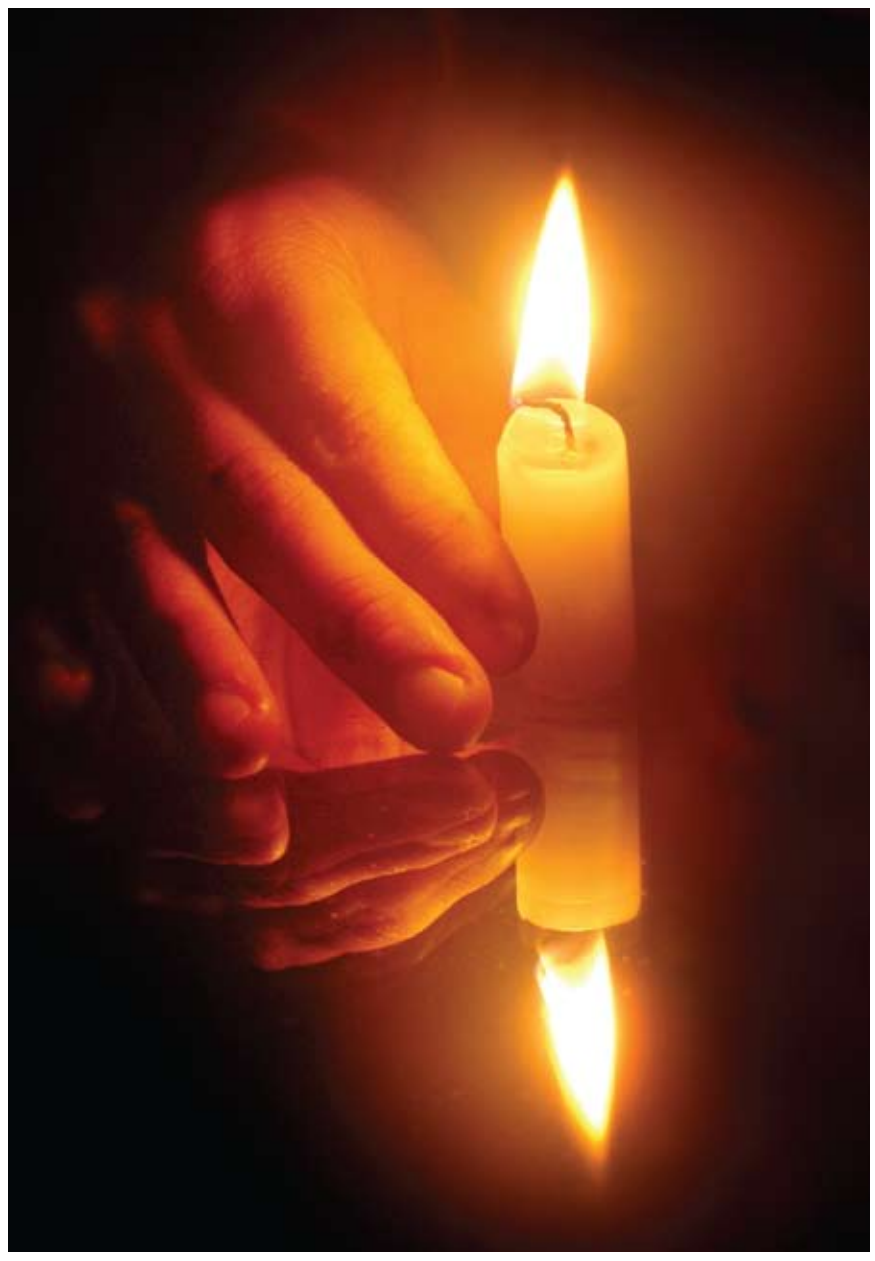

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER OUTAGE
A woman lights a candle during a power outage in Garapan yesterday. Saipan has been suffering from constant rolling power outages. The power outages have become a source of considerable irritation for local residents, and have hurt businesses, which either can't open or must run their own generators.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Norita slams Fitial, hints of suit

"I was prepared to accept your removal letter, citing just your sole authority to remove me. However, I am insulted that you would accuse me of such unfounded allegations."

—Claudio K. Norita, former Department of Public Safety commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Claudio K. Norita slammed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for terminating him as chief of the Department of Public Safety, saying the reasons given were "unsubstantiated, ridiculous, frivolous, unfounded, and nonsense."

Norita

Claiming insult, Norita hinted that he may bring a defamation of character lawsuit against the governor. He also cited the Fitial's senior policy adviser, Ray Mafnas, as the one who "fanatically"

See NORITA on Page 4

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Local

Pete A., Crisostimo submit candidacy papers

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Two more candidates have filed paperwork to run for congressional delegate in this November's historic election.

CNMI Resident Representative to the United States Pete A. Tenorio and Sen. Luis Crisostimo filed with the Commonwealth Election Commission on Friday afternoon. Both were accompanied by family members and supporters, as they each submitted over 1,000 signatures with his nominating petition, exceeding the 200-signature threshold required to get certified as a candidate.

As of Friday, seven individuals have made formal bids to become the CNMI's first-ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. The five candidates who filed earlier are television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, retired Judge Juan Lizama, businessman Chong Won, former senator David Cing, and former Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan.

The deadline for filing candidacy is at 4:30pm on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio submits his candidacy papers at the commission, accompanied by family members and friends Friday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

In an interview, Tenorio said his experience working in Washington, D.C. over the past six and a half years separates him from his six opponents.

"What I find to be so significant in this position is to have the experience working with members of Congress and with the [U.S.] administration, and to be able to articulate our problems and our needs both to Congress and to the administration. I think that my record speaks very clearly. I've done all I that I could to ensure we get the most benefits [from our political relationship with the United States]," he said.

Tenorio also cited his experience as a Covenant negotiator, as lieutenant governor for eight years, and as negotiator in the Section 902 and Section 702 talks with the federal government, as career highlights that will make him an effective CNMI representative to the U.S. Congress.

The candidate of the NMI Republican Party, Tenorio is facing the challenge of rallying party members to support his congressional bid. Some Republicans, including House Floor Leader Joseph James Camacho, have come out publicly in support of other candidates.

Ed Tenorio, president of the NMI Republican Party, said he will send out a letter to party members, particularly those current in office, to support the Republican nominee. Rep. Joseph Reyes, who is leading Tenorio's campaign, also called on the local Republicans to back Tenorio's candidacy. He specifically appealed to party members who have plans to run under the Republican banner in future elections, urging them not to do anything that may put their party loyalty to question.

For his part, Crisostimo said he will not give up his senatorial seat while running for Congress. "Being a public servant remains my greatest passion, and even during my campaign, I will continue to serve our people as their senator. I want the people of the Marianas to know that I am committed to building the Marianas together," he said in a statement.

He also outlined his promises to the CNMI voters, saying, "If given the non-voting delegate seat, I vow never to sit down until our people have more jobs, never to sit down until our relationship with the federal government is strengthened, never to sit down until our islands gain more funding to subsidize the high cost of living, never to sit down until our people have more affordable utilities, never to sit down until our people have affordable healthcare, and never to sit down until our people are eventually able to have a vote in the U.S. Congress. My only promise is to stand up and to speak up for our people."

Crisostimo is running as an independent candidate after the NMI Democratic Party rejected his application for its endorsement, and chose to nominate Cing.

Matson boosts fuel surcharge to 42.25 pct.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In a move that threatens to boost the price of goods on Saipan, the transoceanic shipping giant Matson Navigation Co. last week hiked its shipping prices for the second time this year, citing the soaring cost of fuel.

In a statement Thursday, Matson officials said they would raise the company's fuel surcharge to 42.25 percent beginning Aug. 31.

Scores of businesses in the CNMI rely on shipping to get the materials and sale goods they need. Matson's increased shipping costs will almost certainly place an added financial drain on any local stores or other establishments dependent on the company for necessary supplies.

Skyrocketing fuel costs—a symptom of recent record highs in the global price of oil—have already taken a severe toll this year on the local economy, forcing many businesses to raise prices or scale back services to remain in operation. Fuel costs have also caused problems for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which last month petitioned Mobil officials for a 60-day credit extension to address monthly price increases.

Matson's prices in June jumped from 33.75 to 39.75 percent due to fuel costs. The company has previously said the price of its fuel supply has risen 48 percent since April. The recent price hikes will also impact shipments to Guam, Hawaii and Micronesia.

"Escalating fuel prices have hit levels that are unprecedented and are adversely impacting virtually all businesses, as well as consumers," Dave Hoppes, Matson's senior vice president for ocean services said June 13. "For transportation companies, fuel related expenses are unavoidable."

Matson is owned by Honolulu-based Alexander & Baldwin Inc. and is the largest shipping company in Hawaii.

CPA emergency status hinges on confirmation of board appointees

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vowed to lift the state of emergency for the Commonwealth Ports Authority once the Senate confirms nominees to the CPA board of directors.

In a memorandum issued Friday, Fitial also announced that Lee Cabrera will continue to serve as the acting director of CPA until Aug. 30, 2008. Cabrera had tendered his resignation earlier, and was scheduled to step down on Thursday, July 31, 2008. The governor said the administration and Cabrera have agreed to extend his service until the end of the month "in the best interests of CPA."

"Once the Senate has confirmed a full board for CPA, I expect to lift the state of emergency for the Authority and allow a fully functioning board of directors to appoint a permanent director for the Authority," Fitial said.

Currently, the CPA board of directors has two members—Joe Lifoifoi, who was asked to rescind his earlier resignation, and former Tinian Sen. Manuel Villagomez, who was recently confirmed by the Senate.

Still waiting for the Senate's confirmation are former senator Thomas Villagomez, Frank Camacho, Miriam Seman, and Barry Toves. Another appointee, former Rep. Absalon Waki Jr., has declined his appointment.

Under its bylaws, CPA requires at least four board members to constitute a quorum and to conduct business.

The lack of a functioning board is the main reason Fitial has extended the CPA emergency declaration for another 30 days. The state of emergency was declared originally to stave off a technical default on CPA's airport revenue bond indenture.

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CHECKING OUT GROTTO JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Tourists go to the viewing area of the Grotto dive site in Marpi. Grotto is one of Saipan's best diving spots.

AGO prosecutes suspected car burglar

The Attorney General's Office has charged a man of burglarizing a vehicle and stealing some items.

William Deleon Guerrero was charged with burglary and theft. He was summoned to appear and answer the charges in the Superior Court today, Monday, at 9am.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch stated in the charging information that on May 19, 2007, Deleon Guerrero illegally entered the vehicle of Jeff Elliot.

Once inside the vehicle, the defendant stole Eliot's bag containing personal items, Lynch said.

In other court news, the AGO has filed charges against a 34-year-old woman who allegedly received stolen stainless steel railings.

Gloria Agulto Cabrera of San Antonio was charged with receiving stolen property.

Assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. alleged that, on July 18, 2007, Cabrera received the stainless steel railings belonging to Kwang Ho Kim, knowing that it had been stolen.

The AGO also charged a teenager of causing damage to a car while under the influence of alcohol during last New Year's Eve.

Charlie Misaro, 19, was charged with disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, and minor consuming alcohol.

Lynch said that on Jan 31, 2008, Misaro disturbed the peace of three persons and dented the car belonging to one of the victims Misaro was allegedly drinking at the time. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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8 DCM

From Page 1

The eight mechanical technicians—all Filipinos—are now deep in debt and have failed to remit money to their families back home.

"We are appealing to DCM to give us our wages and overtime. We don't want to end up filing a lawsuit. We just want the money due us for our families," one of the mechanical technician told *Saipan Tribune*. The group agreed to speak with the *Tribune* as long as their names are not used.

According to the workers, DCM owes them $2,000 each but the company—through its agent on the island—just keeps promising them that the payment would be forthcoming.

The workers received their last paycheck on June 11. They started working for DCM on Feb. 28. They stopped their work at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base on July 10 when the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. terminated DCM's contract.

The eight said that when nothing happened to the agent's repeated promises of payment, they decided to proceed to the U.S. Labor's office last week.

On Friday, six of them filed a complaint with the U.S. Labor's Federal Ombudsman Office.

"We just want to get paid. We're going home if we can't find a job here," said one worker who served as spokesman of the group.

According to them, they completed the partial overhauling of power engine No. 8, but they failed to complete the dismantling of power engine No. 7 due to lack of parts and time.

The workers disclosed that DCM itself actually has no experience in overhauling engines, that's why they hired a company from the Philippines.

Most of the eight technicians had worked at the power plants in Lower Base for over 10 years so they knew the problems with the engines. All of them were hired on-island.

They said it was Irene Tantiado of the Coalition of United Workers who helped them a lot by contacting Catholic groups such as Jesus Is Lord and the Salvation Army. The groups gave them rice and canned goods for their daily survival.

The Filipino workers appealed to other organizations and individuals for assistance. They asked those who want to help to contact Tantiado.

CUC terminated in July 2008 the $5.1 million deal with DCM after the company reportedly failed to repair the generators, as required by the contract.

CUC claimed it has already paid DCM over $400,00 under its failed contract.

CUC is now seeking proposals from other companies interested in repairing two of the power generators at Power Plant 1 that were left

STUDY

From Page 1

"It does appear there is a lack of an intake structure," she said. "They don't necessarily have a way of looking at it to say, 'OK, is this child a trafficking victim?'"

The Commonwealth enacted a law in 2005 making trafficking humans a crime, but all of the research and findings were based on foreign—not domestic—cases, Smith said.

Many places, the CNMI included, believe they don't have a problem with domestic sex trafficking, instead focusing on foreign sex trafficking, she added.

"So I don't think very many places realize they have the number of domestic minor sex trafficking victims because they aren't looking for them," she said. "When I describe what DMST is, it's like an 'aha!'"

It's important that first responders — law enforcement and Division of Youth Services — know what to look for, Melissa Snow, project director for the assessment, said.

"If those key people are not trained to know what to look for, then it is very easy to miss the issue of commercial sex exploitation," she said.

According to the assessment, local law enforcement received basic human sex trafficking training, but did not include domestic minor training.

"That first responder training is absolutely critical…that is a key recommendation," Snow said.

The CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition works to educate, but, again they mainly focus on foreign nationals, Smith said.

No minors have been arrested for prostitution in the CNMI, which is a positive, Smith said, because prostitution arrests in minors are often an indicator of domestic minor sex trafficking. There have also been no arrests for pimping juveniles, the assessment states, although a recent case under investigation might be a first for the CNMI under the 2005 law. There are allegations a young local woman was pimping her minor friend.

Smith said there are two growing vulnerabilities for CNMI. A growing methamphetamine problem means there are people selling their children in order to make money to buy drugs or in exchange for drugs.

"There were several different people that stated hearing rumors in doing investigations that in order for the mother to obtain drugs, the mother would provide her child to somebody in lieu of money to obtain meth," Snow said.

In such cases, Snow said, the family members are becoming the traffickers.

The CNMI's tourism environment is also a factor, Smith said.

"People actually do things on vacation they would not do at home. We all know that. It's just the way it goes," she said.

That is one reason why it is important to raise the age limit local girls can work in venues that serve alcohol. The age limit is currently 16, but Smith said it needs to be 21.

"It just jumped out at me when I saw that law," she said. "You're going to put a beautiful, young 16 year old right in front of [tourists] in an environment where alcohol is served." Most of the venues are sexual in nature, such as a strip club, as well, she said.

Smith said the age limit for purchasing alcohol and tobacco are higher, and working in a venue with alcohol should be no different.

"Why would we think a commercial sex venue would be less dangerous than these other areas that we're restricting to protect the child," she said.

Snow said the CNMI is at a different place than the other locations assessed.

"What's unique about the CNMI is here, you all are in a position of prevention," she said. "You haven't really hit a peak yet, but there are points of vulnerability."

In addition to the CNMI, SHI conducted the study in Clearwater, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Independence, Missouri; Las Vegas, Nevada; Buffalo, New York; Salt Lake City, Utah; Fort Worth, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; and Dallas, Texas.

NORITA

From Page 1

pushed for his ouster.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said the governor understands that Norita is not happy with the decision.

"We understand and respect his position. But the governor made a decision that's well within his rights and we're prepared to move on," Reyes said.

"Clyde is mature enough. He is intelligent. But he will soon get over this issue and move on and we only wish him the best of luck," he said.

New Commissioner

Fitial officially appointed former DPS commissioner Santiago F. Tudela as the new department chief effective on Friday. He will serve in an acting capacity until confirmed by the Senate.

"I have great confidence in Mr. Tudela. He knows DPS and he is respected by the DPS staff," said Fitial in a statement issued yesterday.

In the termination letter issued Thursday, Fitial told the former commissioner that, although he is pleased with Norita's efforts, he is terribly concerned at the substantial revenue losses suffered under Norita's administration at DPS.

"Traffic revenue has ranged +/- $300,000 per year for the Commonwealth. This results from an average of 20-35 new misdemeanor cases per week plus payable offenses," the governor said.

In the last two years, Fitial said, a high of 72 new cases were heard on arraignment day in court.

"Subsequent to your arrival, there have been multiple weeks of –0- cases and a typical week is now 3-7 new cases," the governor said.

In addition to revenue losses, the chief executive expressed concern regarding investigative work that, according to Fitial, Norita rejected based on his personal determination of what investigation material is needed to prosecute a case.

"Prosecuting attorneys, not the commissioner, are the ones trained, licensed and responsible to present Commonwealth cases before the Superior Court," the governor said.

Fitial also stated that Norita did not coordinate with agencies historically involved in recruitment and training of new police cadets.

He said the commissioner's office has overseen a candidate selection process that now includes candidates who do not meet the criteria for law enforcement officers, including convicted felons and fugitives.

Fitial said he is exercising his constitutional authority to conclude Norita's service as commissioner of DPS immediately.

"I wish you well in all of your future endeavors, and I thank you for volunteering to serve the administration when you were called upon to serve," said the governor in his letter.

Surprise

In his response letter to Fitial on Friday, Norita said he is surprised at the reasons listed for removing him, describing them as "unsubstantiated and ridiculous."

"I was prepared to accept your removal letter, citing just your sole authority to remove me. However, I am insulted that you would accuse me of such unfounded allegations," Norita told the governor.

On the revenue losses issue, Norita said anybody in law enforcement knows that traffic enforcement is not about collecting revenue through citation.

"It has never been the practice for DPS to put a quota on traffic citation and revenue generation. The sole purpose of traffic enforcement is to educate the [public] and prevent injury and death," he pointed out.

Norita, a former police officer, explained that when citation numbers go down, there are a lot of reasons such as the motoring public is complying with traffic laws or there are fewer vehicles on highways.

"Less vehicles on the highway is justified because of the high cost of fuel and the exodus of people from the CNMI," he stressed.

DPS, Norita emphasized, is not in the business of citing people for the sole reason of generating revenue.

On the alleged manipulation of investigative work (which Norita said is a serious accusation), he demanded that the Attorney General identify a specific case.

"By not citing the specific case is just another attempt to persecute my name in the public media. I find this as grounds to bring about a civil suit for defamation of character," he said.

Press secretary Reyes pointed out, though, that the governor did not publicly publish the reasons for removing Norita. "In order to have a defamation case you have to publish it," he said.

As for hiring criminals, Norita reminded Fitial that DPS got the list of candidates to interview from the Office of Personnel Management.

"This one was not a shot from the hip but way below the hip. Whoever fed you this crap didn't do his homework," he told the governor.

Norita explained that all applicants are processed at OPM, then OPM prepares a certification list that it delivers to DPS.

At DPS, he said, all candidates are advised to take the English Placement Test and, upon passing the test, are made to take the physical agility test.

"When they pass the physical agility test they are interviewed by an interview committee. The interview committee then grades the candidate and then we run their names through our criminal records check," Norita said.

The criminal records check, he added, is separate from the court clearance that the applicants initially submit to OPM.

DPS is prevented by federal and CNMI laws from hiring individuals with felony convictions for police officer positions. Federal law prohibits felons from carrying firearms and cannot be police officers because of this restriction.

Norita suggested to Fitial to closely look at an Attorney General investigator "who has been hired and has a conviction for cultivating marijuana."

"I personally brought this to your attention," he reminded the governor.

He said he is disappointed that Fitial didn't give him an opportunity 'to respond to this nonsense." "However, I am confident that my removal is more political than my actual performance," Norita said.

Norita was off-island when he received his termination letter. He was set to return to the island last night.

Six Reasons

In his farewell letter to DPS personnel on Friday, Norita cited six reasons why he was removed:

First, he said, for having Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez sign his travel authorization.

Second, Norita said, for not giving in to an official's "ridiculous" reasons to give up his agency's obligation to provide aids to navigation and then complaining to Fitial when the U.S. Coast Guard stood by DPS' decision on its grant funds.

The other reason, Norita said, was his refusal to transfer experienced detectives from DPS to the AG's White Collar Crime Unit because, according to the special prosecutor, their own investigators cannot do the job.

"This is demoralizing to hear, especially when the AG investigators are getting paid $40,000 plus a year while our police officers are struggling at $17,000."

The fourth reason, Norita said, was his refusal to sign an AG-initiated memorandum of understanding on a long-term transfer of experienced detectives to the AG Investigative Unit without giving DPS an opportunity to provide input to the MOU.

The other reason, he said, was when he acknowledged to the media the Attorney General's Office's delay in prosecuting a year-old traffic fatality case.

Norita said the last reason he was kicked out was his being "loyal to a friend." He did not elaborate.

"I have to credit Mr. Ray Mafnas for fanatically pushing for my removal. As for why? I leave it up to you to arrive at your own conclusion which I suspect would be the same as mine and probably everybody else reading this letter," he said.

Reyes said, though, that it was the governor's sole decision. "I don't know if we can attribute [the decision] to any other Cabinet member. He [Fitial] made the decision and the decision only rests with the governor," Reyes said.

Norita told DPS personnel that the commissioner serves at the pleasure of the governor.

"I understand the position that I was appointed to and the conditions of such appointment. However, Claudio K. Norita does not serve at the pleasure of the Governor, but rather the people of the CNMI," he said.

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"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
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Bellas: No new $145 GOB checks coming

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In response to a recent letter to the editor, Timothy Bellas, chairman of the Garment Oversight Board, dispelled rumors that some former factory employees are owed an added $145 above the payments they are due to receive.

"There is no truth to the report that another $145 check will be sent our after the current distribution," Bellas writes in a letter to Joaquin Romolor, a Portland, Ore. man whose letter the *Saipan Tribune* published Aug.1.

The GOB is tasked with monitoring the garment industry and distributing the class-action settlement payment its laborers won in a landmark suit over working conditions. Recently, the court extended the term the GOB has to distribute the settlement checks to Oct. 31 2008.

Romolor had written to the newspaper saying his sister-in-law in China is still awaiting her check from the GOB, owed she after worked in a garment factory. The letter suggests the board has ignored his calls and notes she needs the money for an operation on her diseased kidney.

"Do you think ignoring my calls or turning away people will make you look good in the public?" Romolor wrote, later urging Bellas to "take action as a man of justice and peace."

Bellas, in a same day response, says that had Romolor sent the letter directly to the board's office, it would have dealt with his concerns. In addition, Bellas says he has not ignored Romolor's calls.

The GOB, he adds, has faced several logistical problems linked to the distribution of the checks, such as checks sent to the wrong address and checks that were never delivered to workers by the local "agents" they designated to receive them on their behalf. Chinese settlement recipients have also reported, he notes, that banks in China have in some cases refused to cash the settlement checks.

"It is unfortunate, but there is no doubt that there will be people who, while they were garment workers for the period involved, may not receive any money from the settlement fund," Bellas writes.

In the case of Romolor's sister-in-law, Bellas notes that the address she supplied to receive her $128.62 settlement check was incorrect and that the check was consequently returned to the board without ever being cashed.

Moreover, Bellas dispels a rumor circulated in a local Chinese newspaper that some workers will receive an added bonus check after the initial class-action suit payment.

Every party involved in the settlement, he adds, must "understand that the GOB has a limited term and we must complete this process once and for all" and that former workers "need to cash the checks as soon as possible."

DOC's reverse osmosis system is now working

The reverse salt water osmosis system at the new adult prison in Susupe is now operational, according to Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino S. Tenorio.

Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* that the new prison has its own water supply now as the saltwater osmosis system is running.

Tenorio

Tenorio, however, clarified that the water is not potable or drinkable.

"We were able to have water dispensers all over the facility so that the inmates and officers can drink," the commissioner said.

The reverse osmosis system is one of the state-of-the art technologies installed at the new prison.

The system was built for the purpose of producing potable water to accommodate the operational needs at DOC.

Meanwhile, Tenorio said they are looking at several programs in place in the next few weeks at DOC.

He tapped Arnold Seman to be in charge of the inmate/officer incentive program for both inmates and Corrections officers.

At this early, he said, DOC is now looking forward to participating in the annual Flame Tree Festival.

Tenorio said DOC had participated twice in the annual Liberation Day Parade.

Last year's Liberation Day Parade, DOC won second place in the float competition, but this year they grabbed the first place.

Tenorio said last year they had only two weeks' notice about their participation, but this year they had two months' preparation period.

"So now we are going on a different agenda [joining Flame Tree Festival]. We always try to promote inmates' talent and artwork," he said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Measure seeks penalty for ignoring lawmakers' public records requests

Legislation has been introduced to penalize government employees who ignore a lawmaker's request for public records even while the Legislature continues to be exempt from the Open Government Act.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente has sponsored a bill requiring government employees to comply with requests for public records by members of the Legislature within 10 days of a written request. The bill also proposes to hold violators liable for contempt.

Benavente, in his bill, said that "government officers and employees too frequently disregard and neglect requests for public records by members of the Legislature." He added that those public records are often vital for legislative members to carry out their lawmaking responsibilities.

What the bill proposes to do is similar to the provisions now in effect under the Open Government Act. The law requires government agencies to make public records available for inspection and to respond to requests for information within 10 days of a written request. It also mandates government agencies to conduct their meetings openly.

The Open Government Act, however, does not apply to the Legislative Branch. The 9th Legislature repealed a section subjecting lawmakers to the transparency law. A legislative attempt to restore that provision failed in the last Legislature.

A citizen-driven initiative has now been submitted to restore the application of the Open Government Act to the Legislature. It may be placed on the ballot as early as this November. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZHOU CHUN MEI	)	FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner,	)	ACTION NO.08-0164
vs.	)	ORDER
LI DAO QING	)	
Respondent,	)	

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION by the Petitioner for an Order of this Court requiring the Respondent to answer or otherwise plead herein and permitting services to be made by publication under 7 CMC § 1301.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Respondent shall be served by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Petitioner shall publish the Summons, filed on April 1, 2008, on at least two (2) dates.

Entered this 24th day of July, 2008.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO,
Associate Judge

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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Regular*** meeting on **Thursday, August 07, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Oath of Office
- D. Adoption of Agenda
- E. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
  - 1. July 10, 2008

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Report of the Chairman
  - 1. ROC No. 08-010
- B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
  - 1. ROA No. 08-010
- C. Report of the Comptroller
  - 1. Financials
    - a) NMIRF
    - b) GHLITF
    - c) WCC
  - 2. Drawdown Request
    - a) July 23, 2008
- D. Reports of the Committees
  - 1. Finance & Investment Committee
  - 2. Operations & Personnel Committee
  - 3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
  - 4. GH&L and WCC Committee
- E. Reports of the Investment Director
  - 1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
  - 2. Report of Housing Loan Program
- F. Communications
- G. Other Matters

IV. LEGAL MATTERS
- A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
  - 1. Report of the Board Counsel
    - a) Lawsuit
  - 2. Report of the In-house Counsel
    - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
  - 3. Report of the Hearing Officer
  - 4. Administrative Hearing Contractor Status

V. OLD BUSINESS
- 1. BR 08-001 Matters
  - a) Pension Application Matters
  - b) P.L. 15-98
  - c) Disability Applicants
- 2. DC Plan Update Report
- 3. Rota and Tinian Office Space Status
- 4. RFP 08-046 – Wrap Fee
- 5. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- 6. Retirement Fund Building Renovation
- 7. Update Reports on Fund Software, LaserFiche, Etc.

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- 1. 11% rate (P.L. 16-2)
- 2. FY 2009 Budget
  - a) NMIRF
  - b) GHLITF
  - c) WCC
- 3. FY 2008 Supplemental Budget
- 4. PSS Matters
- 5. Government Credit Union Financial Report/Status
- 6. Legal Representation Matters

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC to offer NCLEX classes

The Northern Marianas College will offer a preparatory class for the National Council Licensure Examination. The course is sponsored by NMC's Area Health Education Center.

Candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. mainland must pass the NCLEX to become licensed nurses.

The NCLEX classes will begin on Aug. 11, 2008. Those interested in enrolling in the class must register on or before Aug. 5, 2008 by contacting the AHEC Office at 234-5498, ext. 1010 or 1019.

For more information, contact David Apatang at the same number or stop by the Community Development Institute Office in Building P at NMC's As Terlaje Campus. ***(PR)***

Public meetings for FAS citizens, other issues

The Coalition of United Workers (NMI) is organizing a series of meetings and is inviting the public to attend these meetings:

■ If you are a FAS citizen who has an alien spouse, please attend a meeting on Aug. 5 at 9:30am at Kilili Pavillion.

■ If you have not received your federal stimulus check or have questions about the stimulus check you received, please attend a meeting on Aug. 5, 7pm at American Memorial Park.

"Important issues will be discussed so we are encouraging interested parties to attend," said Coalition president Irene Tantiado. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the northern island of Farallon de Mendenilla from Aug. 4 through Aug. 8, between 8am and 7pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office advises the public— especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to avoid the Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Any questions should be directed to the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16 and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

NMC CREES seeking summer interns

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service will offer 18 paid internship positions in its agriculture and family consumer science divisions.

The internships, which will last from Aug. 4 to Aug. 29, 2008, will provide students with excellent work experience and hands-on training through the interns' active involvement in different projects. There are eight research lab assistant positions and ten extension assistant positions available.

The internships are open to incoming high school juniors and seniors for school year 2008-2009. Interested applicants must submit a two-page application form, have an interest in the fields of agriculture and family consumer science and a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Application forms can be picked up from the CREES Office at the NMC As Terlaje Campus in Building F, or from the Tinian and Rota NMC Offices. For more information, please call the CREES Office at 234-5498 Ext 1705. ***(CREES)***

DEQ hosting storage tank meetings

The Division of Environmental Quality is asking the public to attend a series of meetings across the CNMI to learn more about historical land use and underground storage tanks on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and ultimately close them in an environmentally friendly manner.

DEQ is conducing a site survey on the three islands to identify locations of tanks that may be contaminated or have possible leaks. The department is seeking also to gather information from the public about potential storage tanks and land use storage tanks.

The department is looking for sites of fuel dispensing facilities or former gasoline stations. The sites may have been abandoned or redeveloped years ago.

Duenas & Associates, Inc. will conduct the survey.

The meetings are as followed:

■ Saipan-Monday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m. in the Office on Aging Conference room

■ Tinian-Thursday, Aug. 7, at 11 a.m. in the Office of the Mayor Conference room

■ Rota-Friday, Aug. 8, at 11 a.m. in the Office of the Mayor Conference room

EVENTS CALENDAR

Editor's Note: The following is subject to change without prior notice. If your business or organization has an upcoming activity that you want included in this section, just email all pertinent details to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 2358747.

August 4, 2008 (MON)

■ DEQ meeting in Office on Aging conference room at 11am

■ University of Loyola orientation at 6pm

August 5, 2008 (TUES)

■ Saipan Rotary Club meeting at 11:30am in Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's

August 6, 2008 (WED)

■ DEQ Water Operator Training, Aqua Resort Club at 8am-4pm

■ University of Loyola orientation at 6pm

August 7, 2008 (THURS)

■ DEQ meeting at the Office of the Mayor of Tinian at 11am

■ Office on Aging meetings for Chamorro conference at 9am

■ Garapan Street Market performers 6pm-10pm

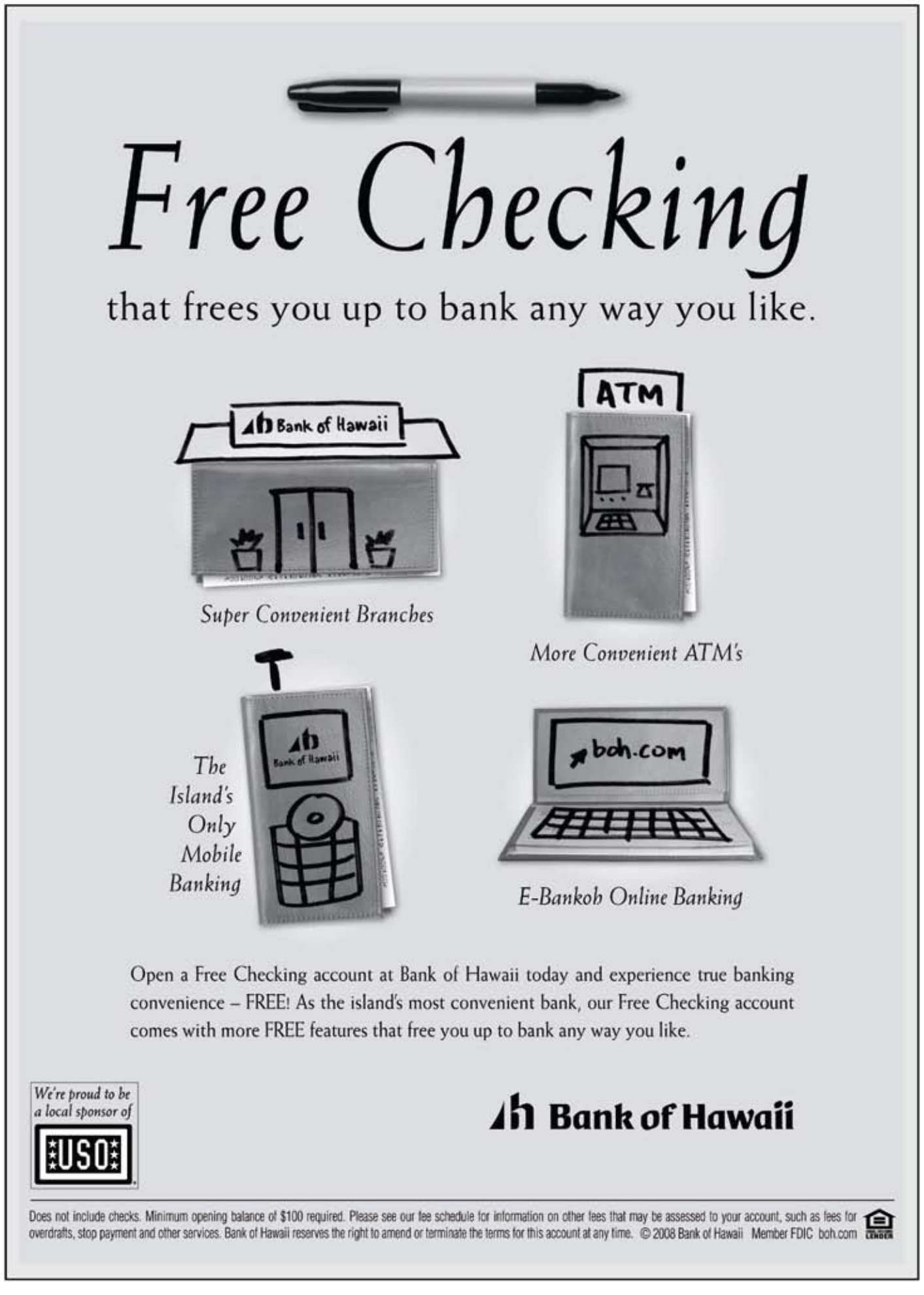
August 8, 2008 (FRI)

■ CHC meeting for SAPTember month at 10am

■ DEQ meeting at the Office of the Mayor of Rota at 11am

August 9, 2008 (SAT)

■ University of Loyola orientation at 10am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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Vendors on Saipan and Tinian for the purpose of providing WIC-approved food items to WIC participants. All interested vendors may pick up an application at the WIC main office located at Upper Navy Hill, building number N-25, starting July 28, 2008 through August 16, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.). Alternatively, applications may also be downloaded online by visiting the CNMI WIC website at **www.cnmiwic.org**.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:30 p.m., August 16, 2008.

The Vendor selection criteria are attached to the applications and can also be viewed online at **www.cnmiwic.org**. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa, at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org, or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL
LABOR CASES

August 4, 2008, first notice
August 11, 2006, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES:

Each of the labor cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

CASE #	EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER
LC 07-230	Abrera, Rodelio S.	Auntie Mag's Food & Catering
LC 07-011	Abuel, Anacoreta R.	Kintol, Daria M.
LC 07-047	Agnapan, Natividad P.	Klewei, Nick N.
LC 07-014	Aiba, Tsuyoshi	Kumanomi dba Café de Colmar
LC 07-364	Albano, Cecilia J.	Pangelinan, Guadalupe T.
LC 07-351	Alcantara, Marietta E.	JC Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-206	Alejandro, Josephine C.	Javier, Jeffrey
LC 07-113	Alvarico, Hermognes L.	Palacios, Rex I.
LC 07-214	An, Eun Hee	Oak Corporation
LC 07-004	Andres, Michelle T.	Yun's Corporation
LC 07-337	Antonio, Luz A.	Kaipat, Celina C.
LC 07-077	Anuran, Janeth M.	Manglona, Dwight
LC 07-270	Araquel, Edita I.	Taman, Jacinto and Dolores
LC 07-060	Arsenal, Sonia M.	Macatangay Derma Health
LC 07-161	Azarcon, Eutemio Jr. D.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 07-079	Bacus, Ligaya C.	Sablan, Ramon
LC 07-287	Barit, Felipa D.	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-153	Bastulo, Ainee C.	Sacremento, Eduardo
LC 07-201	Belen, Juan O.	Dong Rim Corporation
LC 07-036	Belza, Ione M.	Herman's Modern Bakery
LC 07-123	Benemerito, Enrico O.	Seishun Farm Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-278	Bernabe, Carlito E.	Quichocho Security Services
LC 07-304	Bhatta, Bhoj R.	G4S Security Services
LC 07-006	Bituyan, Md. Golgar H.	Calvo, Patrick M.
LC 07-105	Blanco, Eden A.	Torres, Juanita C.
LC 07-026	Borlaza, Milquides Jr.	Cabrera, Escolastica C.
LC 07-321	Brillo, Shirly T.	Camacho Investment Corp.
LC 07-281	Briones, Warlito A.	BFJ Corporation
LC 07-309	Bronoso, Cenon C.	Cabrera, Francisco M.
LC 07-203	Buena, Fedirico M.	YTS Micronesia, Inc.
LC 07-368	Bustillo, Jonas T.	Printwell, Inc.
LC 07-097	Caballero, Emily G.	Camacho, Crystal
LC 07-023	Caballero, Emily G.	Kosam, Jordan and Betty Lou
LC 07-070	Cabalza, Lucille S.	J.D.H. Corporation
LC 07-382	Cabiles, Alfredo A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company
LC 07-092	Cabrera, Xiaoqin Zhou	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-202	Caintoy, Raquel U.	Tomokane, Anthony S.
LC 07-120	Calacsan, Paterno R.	Cook N Sam Corporation
LC 07-063	Cao, Shi Lin	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-025	Carandang, Lilibeth C.	Blue Water Int'l Corporation
LC 07-177	Casuncad, Reymond C.	Micronesia Des. Group & Assoc.
LC 07-180	Chau, Chuong (ER)	Cao, Jingwei (EE)
LC 07-180	Chau, Chuong (ER)	Lou, Dewen (EE)
LC 07-052	Chen, Chunhui	WZ Corporation
LC 07-316	Chen, Hui Zhu	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-227	Chen, Jing	Pangelinan, Mariano
LC 07-384	Chen, Junqing	Chen Wang Corporation
LC 07-289	Chen, Leiyong	De Mei Development Corp.
LC 07-221	Chen, Li	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-288	Chen, Lian	De Mei Development Corp.
LC 07-148	Chen, Ying	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-277	Corona, Ireneo A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company
LC 07-297	Cueto, Benhur A.	JNJ Corporation
LC 07-290	Culanag, Danilo S.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 07-066	Daluz, Nora U.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-151	Dang, Dezhen	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-052	Dang, Dezhen	WZ Corporation
LC 07-160	Davis, Rezalina L.	White House Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-035	Daynos, Laura C.	Victory Corporation
LC 07-391	De Guzman, Noricia S.	Han's Trade Corporation
LC 07-310	Dela Cruz, Jesus E.	Develop Ideas Corporation
LC 07-046	Deleon, Lannyrose H.	White House Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-176	Delos Reyes, Marylou S.	Jin, Mina Yue
LC 07-348	Deng, Lijun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-182	Deng, Wenhong	Winner's Corporation
LC 07-303	Dizon, Leticia	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-326	Dizon, Raymundo V.	Hi-Five Company, Ltd.
LC 07-314	Doblas, Benedicto E.	Younis Art Studio, Inc.
LC 07-068	Dosdos, Merlyn C.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-322	Dulall, Howlader	DL Guerrero, Joaquin V.
LC 07-252	Dulnuan, Lorina T.	Erungel, Willardo
LC 07-116	Enriquez, Solita P.	Evangelista, Juan L.
LC 07-178	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc.
LC 07-286	Espinosa, Gilbert A.	Philpan Int'l, Inc.
LC 07-031	Fabian, Dennis P.	Commercial Trading of Spn, Inc.
LC 07-193	Fan, Dongjuan	Success Corporation
LC 07-044	Fan, Hu Zai	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-158	Fan, Jianying	Hui Shu Corporation
LC 07-346	Fan, Xiaoli	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-021	Fan, Xiuqin	Dela Cruz, Dolores B.
LC 07-126	Fan, Xuehua	Success Corporation
LC 07-259	Fang, Juanping	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-344	Fang, Yu	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-019	Feliciano, Invictus T.	Eastern Hope Corporation
LC 07-130	Feng, Bin	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-037	Fiel, Nely V.	Sablan, Ronald
LC 07-061	Flores, Diosdado R.	Nero, Ortizo
LC 07-196	Francisco, Maria C.D.L.	Reyes, Rebecca
LC 07-212	Fu, Chuilian	He Cheng Corporation
LC 07-189	Gabayeron, Artemia A.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-284	Gamboa, Editha B.	Han's Trade Corporation
LC 07-132	Gao, Yueqiang	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-136	Gao, Zhanquan	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-253	Garces, Jean L.G.	Island Essense, Inc.
LC 07-138	Gaviola, Annie M.	Golden Harvest Int'l School, Inc.
LC 07-347	Geng, Luping	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-302	Germino, Virgilio A.	Mega Power Corporation
LC 07-146	Getueza, Franco E.	Chong Won Don
LC 07-011	Gonzales, Celia L.	Kintol, Daria M.
LC 07-188	Gonzales, Larry G.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-009	Gonzales, Melanie L.	Jung A Enterprises
LC 07-067	Goyena, Chery C.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation
LC 07-378	Gu, Lianhua	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-357	Guo, Qiongying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-005	Halim, Seikh A.	Misamis Const. Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-340	He, Yunfei	Zhang's Corporation
LC 07-140	Hechanova, Josefa Z.	Aquino, Kaysie Q.
LC 07-108	Herrera, Luisito E.	Saltwater Hillbillies, Inc.
LC 07-362	Hu, Guojun	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-084	Hu, Wang	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-257	Hu, Xiaojing	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-118	Huang, Meihua	Han Soo Hee
LC 07-260	Huang, Riuang	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-098	Huang, Xuewei	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-103	Huang, Zhi Xiang	WACL Corporation
LC 07-254	Imperial, Myla G.	Island Essense, Inc.
LC 07-235	Inigo, Lina G.	Garrido, Joey T.
LC 07-265	Islam, Tufazzul	Ray's Lawn Care & Maintenance
LC 07-055	Ito, Minako	Watabe Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-349	Izar, Romeo E.	AIC Marianas, Inc.
LC 07-197	Jaraplasan, Manuel B.	Huang, Jiashen
LC 07-085	Ji, Cheng Xiang	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-069	Ji, Hai Xai	K & K Corporation
LC 07-052	Ji, Richeng	WZ Corporation
LC 07-263	Jiang, Bo	Yuna Corp. & Liha Sook Guzman
LC 07-190	Jiang, Shunyu	Jiang Gun Restaurant
LC 07-173	Jiao, Guangcai	TSP, Inc.
LC 07-164	Jin, Caiping	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-274	Jin, Guangxu	K.S. Chang Corporation
LC 07-171	Jin, Jing Guo	Soo Jee Market
LC 07-107	Jin, Jinshu	Apple Corporation
LC 07-375	Jin, Shunnu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-380	Jin, Shunyu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-119	Jin, Zhongcheng	Saipan Gold Beach Hotel
LC 07-088	Jing, Zhiqiang	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-296	Jovelo, Freddie O.	Huang, Jiashen dba Leche
LC 07-159	Kapau-an, Lorenzo Jr. G.	PGS, Inc.
LC 07-043	Kim, Sung Ki	Galaxy Company, Ltd.
LC 07-385	Ko, Jin Hang	Dr. Ko, LLC
LC 07-175	Kumar, Pradeep	Naiua Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-298	Kwang, Han Lee	Ji Soo Corporation
LC 07-198	Lai, Lifen	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-186	Lariza, Lorenzo V.	MKK Corporation
LC 07-157	Laurtes, M. Eliza V.D.P.	YCO Corporation
LC 07-150	Li, Fayan	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-117	Li, Feng Ye	Cabrera, Edward C.
LC 07-360	Li, Guoxing	Pacific Jang's Corporation
LC 07-328	Li, Hai Bo	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-165	Li, Ying	Jaguar Company, Ltd.
LC 07-133	Li, Jian	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-135	Li, Jian Po	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-052	Li, Jiazhu	WZ Corporation
LC 07-030	Li, Jihao	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-353	Li, Lianyu	Jung Uk Corporation
LC 07-170	Li, Xiang Dong	Dela Rosa, Juliana D.
LC 07-372	Li, Xiao Yan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-388	Li, Xiuzhi	Ben Tang Game Room
LC 07-192	Li, Zongyuan	Dela Rosa, Elinor
LC 07-311	Lian, Guoping	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-109	Lim, Romeo Y.	Loste, Eleonor A.
LC 07-001	Lin, Qingxin	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-261	Lin, Yanbing	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-219	Lin, Zhang	WZ Corporation
LC 07-218	Liu, Changhai	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-134	Liu, Guanghui	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-102	Liu, Guihua	LCKG Company, Ltd.
LC 07-124	Liu, Renqing	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-090	Liu, Xingguo	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-022	Liu, Yafang	Chang Cheng Int'l Corporation
LC 07-033	Liu, Yujun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-371	Liwanag, Leonora S.	Santos, Lorylinda C.
LC 07-059	Long, Xiahong	K & K Corporation
LC 07-256	Long, Xiaohong	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-083	Lou, Zhongming	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-374	Lu, Dai Fang	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-295	Lu, Kaifeng	Success Corporation
LC 07-149	Lu, Xiaomei	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-356	Lui, Damei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-204	Luo, Xiaomin	Saipan Triple Star Recycling
LC 07-355	Macam, Onofre B.	Agbanlog, Ignacio C. Jr.
LC 07-331	Macoto, Adonis T.	Asia Pacific Hotels
LC 07-245	Mahayont, Suvakit	Tano Group, Inc.
LC 07-179	Mai, Dietang	Soo Jee Market
LC 07-329	Manalang, Nelia P.	Delos Reyes, Michelle H.
LC 07-291	Manalo, Ruby A.	Miller, Ellis dba EWGE
LC 07-215	Mangahis, Jehan A.	ILC Corporation
LC 07-172	Manzanilla, Aler L.	Mount Carmel School, Inc.
LC 07-048	Marasigan, Oliver A.	Yun's Corporation
LC 07-167	Martinez, Rosmari N.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 07-051	Marucot, Angelina P.	Nogis, Vivian
LC 07-226	Miah, Babul	Alliance Paper Products, Inc.
LC 07-013	Mirano, Earl E.C.	Erensia, Inc.
LC 07-389	Monsanto, Christopher	Seman, Julie dba Oram Security
LC 07-249	Munzon, Reynaldo B.	Sae Woun Corporation
LC 07-370	Niduaza, Eraro S.	Seven Twelve 7.12 Enterprises
LC 07-220	Ocenar, Edwin J.	Pangelinan, Catherine dba Bolis R US
LC 07-248	Octavo, Efren I.	Sae Woun Corporation
LC 07-027	Opena, Rowel M.	Fejeran, Beatriz Q.
LC 07-162	Orencio, Benedict S.	Pacific Auto Glass Co., Inc.
LC 07-112	Paclipan, Melissa	Cook N Sam Corporation
LC 07-268	Pagtalunan, Lucita A.	Rife, Amanda M.
LC 07-361	Pan, Jinhua	J.S. Corporation
LC 07-324	Pan, Ping	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-200	Paracha, Celestino G.	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-074	Park, Mu Chuel	Arriola, Joseph A.
LC 07-366	Park, Yang Soo	Yoo Sung Embroidery
LC 07-299	Parocha, Eduardo S.	Sablan Betelnut Distribution
LC 07-345	Pei, Honglian	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-050	Peng, Hongmei	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-111	Peng, Siqin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-325	Pesigan, Andrea T.	Bateman, Bruce A.
LC 07-110	Piao, Ji Yan	Soo Hee Han dba Star Poker
LC 07-350	Pido, Erlinda M.	Orilly, Marilyn P.
LC 07-071	Ping, Dai	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-064	Pioquinto, Macarthur F.	Candy Carousel
LC 07-081	Pitpit, Albert S.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-262	Qi, Meiying	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-052	Qian, Guohua	WZ Corporation
LC 07-147	Qiu, Guangman	Zhen Zui Brother Corp.
LC 07-211	Quan, Xuezhe	MKK Corporation
LC 07-129	Quesada, Roxanne L.	Sky International Corp.
LC 07-099	Qui, Jianyuan	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-017	Quiambao, Angelito J.	Dela Rosa, Elinor
LC 07-307	Quipid, Romeo M.	Misamis Const. Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-336	Ramos, Teresita S.	American Joint Part Corp.
LC 07-145	Raut, Raja R.	Cube Corporation
LC 07-010	Relucio, Redentor	Harmony Int'l, Inc.
LC 07-273	Ren, Qiao Fang	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-065	Rivera, Regis J.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-121	Rojas, Reynaldo D.C.	Cook N Sam Corporation
LC 07-053	Romare, Susan V.	Jin Ho Corp. dba Papago Laundry
LC 07-122	Romero, Rebecca D.	Phan, Flordeliza B.
LC 07-381	Romew, Antonietta A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company
LC 07-184	Rosete, Rebecca S.	Deleon Guerrero, Jesus V.
LC 07-185	Rosete, Viraillio C.	Deleon Guerrero, Jesus V.
LC 07-163	Rosimo, Edmund A.	Mallari, Joven A.
LC 07-244	Rubis, Imelda R.	Greenstone International
LC 07-029	Sagana, Bonifacio	G4S Security Services
LC 07-240	Salamat, Joel C.	M.R. Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-115	Saludes, Meriam E.	Evangelista, Juan L.
LC 07-187	Saluta, Noel S.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-229	Salvador, Reynaldo L.	Auntie Mag's Food & Catering
LC 07-285	Sanchez, Aurora D.C.	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-054	Sario, Melvin M.	Falig, Mariano
LC 07-216	Satumira, Resurecion	Camacho, Joseph and Martha
LC 07-225	Sayson, Hedelita R.	Jimin Enterprises
LC 07-127	Sayson, Kimberly L.R.	Jimin Enterprises
LC 07-247	Serrano, Maricris L.	Cepeda, Isidro T.
LC 07-039	Sha, Mei Ying	Success Corporation
LC 07-032	Shang, Jijiang	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-255	Shen, Chonglan	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-096	Shen, Haixia	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-095	Sheng, Wei Jian	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-183	Shi, Desheng	Cepeda, Maria B.
LC 07-379	Shi, Xi	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-367	Shimizu, Tomoko	EIC Mariana, Inc.
LC 07-199	Shu, Huiyan	Concorde Garment MFG
LC 07-125	Shuang, Ruijiao	Winner's Corporation
LC 07-141	Sison, Romeo V.	Ngirarois, Skey
LC 07-104	Solena, Lilian P.	Pacific Amusement
LC 07-155	Su, Rulong	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-343	Sun, Xiaoyan	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-308	Tambot, Fernando S.	Juang Sig Corporation
LC 07-166	Tang, Haiyun	K & K Corporation
LC 07-320	Tanghal, Cilda B.	Guzman, Linlingay E.
LC 07-087	Tian, Gui Hua	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-210	Valdez, Milo E.	Santos, Lorylinda C.
LC 07-062	Vargas, Henry B.	Vargas, Eugenio I.
LC 07-301	Victorio, Andrea T.	Mega Power Corporation
LC 07-154	Vila, Guido B.	Angel Wings Corp.
LC 07-089	Vinoya, Rolando N.	New Oxympia Ent., Inc.
LC 07-093	Wan, Yanlin	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-224	Wang, Fengming	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-313	Wang, Haihua	American Sai Green
LC 07-377	Wang, Haixia	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-318	Wang, Hong	Phoenix Corporation
LC 07-246	Wang, Hong Yu	J.S. Corporation
LC 07-086	Wang, Hong Yu	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-106	Wang, Honghua	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-387	Wang, Jihong	L & S Apparel Company
LC 07-390	Wang, Jiping	L & S Apparel Company
LC 07-317	Wang, Lanlan	G and R Farms
LC 07-075	Wang, Lixin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-028	Wang, Qi	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-082	Wang, Xiaoping	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-234	Wei, Leping	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-276	Wei, Yan	Majestic Restaurant
LC 07-052	Wu, Kaibin	WZ Corporation
LC 07-217	Wu, Yan	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-332	Wu, Yuyan	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-294	Xia, Naijun	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-042	Xiao, Shaihong	Oh Yeah Fashion
LC 07-100	Xiao, Yanguang	Pangelinan, Mariano
LC 07-242	Xie, Yunjin	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-233	Xing, Xiao Yu	Shun Yi American Corp.
LC 07-040	Xu, Hong Hong	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-354	Xu, Huili	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-359	Xu, Shunying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-232	Xu, Xiang Ling	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-319	Xu, Xiang Ling	US CNMI Development Corp.
LC 07-056	Xu, Yan	BQF Services Corporation
LC 07-181	Xue, Boun	Success Corporation
LC 07-131	Yan, Wei	Dela Rosa, Elinor
LC 07-205	Yan, Yingyue	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 07-231	Yang, Ling	L & S Apparel Company
LC 07-040	Yang, Xiao Huan	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-080	Yao, Dongmei	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-258	Yao, Min	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-191	Ye, Jiamin	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 07-323	Yu, Haijun	Dragon Corporation
LC 07-002	Yu, Hong Juan	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-358	Yu, Weihong	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-003	Yuan, Fengling	Hui Shu Corporation
LC 07-250	Yumul, Adelfa M.	Sae Woun Corporation
LC 07-339	Zhang, Chunyan	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-142	Zhang, Ganqing	American Kai Hua Corp.
LC 07-243	Zhang, Hu Cheng	La Paloma Company, Ltd.
LC 07-306	Zhang, Jiamei	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-041	Zhang, Jiqing	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-194	Zhang, Naiqin	Jin Ji Corporation
LC 07-152	Zhang, Yinxia	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-279	Zhao, Chun Xiu	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-228	Zhao, Huimin	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-015	Zhao, Humin	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 07-045	Zhong, Xina	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-091	Zhou, Haijuan	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-312	Zhou, Lifen	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-072	Zhu, Guiqin	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-275	Zhu, Haimei	Yong Cheng Corporation
LC 07-334	Zhu, Qingzhen	Soleman dba Barracks
LC 07-376	Zhu, Wen Mei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-073	Zhu, Xiaqin	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-373	Zhu, Yinchuan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-040	Zhu, Yong Xian	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-078	Zong, Liping	Jin Yang Corporation

Fire rites mark Tongan coronation

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A tupakapakanava, or traditional torch lighting ceremony, was held along the Nuku'alofa foreshore Thursday evening after sunset when students lit bark torches creating a line of fire around the coastline and rings of fire around the small islets visible from the capital.

The ceremony is a traditional honor accorded to the Royal Family and followed the installation of Tonga's King Tupou V on Wednesday.

Another Tupakapakanava was held on Friday, August 1, the day of the King's coronation in the church.

The Tongan government has defended its spending on celebrations for the coronation of King George Tupou V.

The cost of the weeklong festivities has been put at around US$2.5 million, with critics arguing the money could have been better spent on poverty reduction programs.

But the Prime Minister, Fred Sevele, says most Tongans support the coronation spending, and the government has no apologies.

Around 1,400 dignitaries attended the coronation, including royalty from Japan, Thailand and Britain.

The 60-year-old king was crowned in a Western-style ceremony on Friday.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Australia OKs $27M for destitute Nauru

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Nauru's foreign minister, Dr Kieren Keke, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith which governs Australia's development assistance to Nauru. In the 2008-09 financial year, Australia will provide up to 27 million US dollars in Official Development Assistance to Nauru. The assistance supports health, education, economic and financial management and public sector capacity-building, including policing assistance. Australia says this represents the government's commitment to help Nauru restore essential infrastructure and services and to improve economic self-sufficiency. The deal also takes into account the closure in March of Australia's Offshore Processing Centre on Nauru set up in 2001.

Niue looks to New Zealand for hotel backing

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Premier of Niue is looking for New Zealand assistance to boost the island's tourism industry with the construction of several boutique hotels. Toke Talagi is on his first visit to Wellington since becoming Premier in June and says he got a positive reception from New Zealand's political leaders for his plans to develop a sustainable economy. He says he is confident his new Government will get the backing to further develop industries particularly tourism. Talagi wants Niue to target well heeled tourists but the island is short of accommodation, so he wants a number of small hotels built quickly.

Former Samoa official sentenced to 9 months

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Supreme Court in Samoa has sentenced the former auditor of the Customs office in the Ministry of Revenue, Pepe Tevaga, to nine months in jail. The former auditor and assistant CEO of the Customs finance service had pleaded guilty in June to one count of theft as a servant involving more than 3,000 US dollars of public funds. 15 other charges against her were withdrawn by the police after a plea bargain with the Attorney General. In sentencing the accused, the Chief justice, Patu Falefatu Sapolu, says it's a concern for the court that a person with such a high level of education who also held very senior positions in the government as a civil servant committed such a crime.

Cooks export 2 tons of taro to NZ

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—The second export consignment of taro from the outer island of Atiu in the Cook Islands was flown to New Zealand at the weekend. The consignment had two tonnes of taro in 200 bags. The first consignment was sent at the beginning of the month and consisted of 1.5 tonnes, which was bound for customers in Auckland and Wellington.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: July 10, 2008 **Closing Date: Until Filled**

JVA No. 08-019 Managing Engineer for Power Generation
Location Power Generation, Saipan

JVA No. 08-020 Engineer (Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Civil Engineering)
Locations Power Generation, Saipan; Water and Wastewater, Saipan; and Power Division, Saipan

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please contact the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Opening Date: July 25, 2008 **Closing Date: Until Filled**

JVA No. 08-022 Assistant Engineer (Mechanical and/or Electrical)
Locations Power Generation, Saipan; **Power Generation, Rota**

JVA No. 08-023 Information Technology Analyst/Engineer
Location IT/EDP, Saipan

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please contact the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOT IN TATGUA, ROTA FOR SALE OR LEASE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wishes to inform the general public of the sale or lease of Lot No. 257 R 35 located in Tatgua, Rota, more particularly described as follows:

Lot No. 257 R 35 containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 257 R 03, dated October 17, 1995, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 95-2671, dated October 20, 1995, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Interested firms of individuals are encouraged to submit their sealed offers to purchase or lease, addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. All offers to purchase or lease said property must be sealed and must be received no later than August 18, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by August 18, 2008 and must be received no later than August 27, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. at which time all offers received will be opened and reviewed by NMHC. Off-island bidders must notify the NMHC Corporate Director in writing (by any mode of written communication including facsimile or other electronic transmission) of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. Minimum bid shall not be less than $40,000.00. All other bids, including untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all offers received in the best interest of NMHC.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the offered purchase price must be paid by the winning bidder if the NMHC notifies the same of his, her or their selection. Payment must be received no later than August 28, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. The remaining balance of the offered purchase price shall then be due within ten (10) calendar days of said notification. Failure to make payment of the immediate deposit or the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the winning bidder of his, her or their ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of said bidder's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.

Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold AS IS and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Edward M. Ayuyu, ("Trustor"), on or about September 17, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 17, 2001 under Document No. 01-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 345 R 426, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 929 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 345 R 09 DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1984, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 84-2049, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on July 20, 2006. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on August 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Rota Field Office, Sonton, P.O. Box 527, Rota, MP 96951 under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $20,000.00, the total amount due under the VA loan plus Trustee's expenses.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 15th day of July 2008.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 04, 1999

CUC says no to debt forgiveness for govt

Saying they are being generous by not disconnecting utility services to the government, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board Chair Rosario Elameto yesterday opposed a recommendation to write off portion of the debt it has accumulated over the past six months. She said the government must settle its bills amounting to $6.8 million based on an easy payment plan that will be worked out between CUC and the Department of Finance to avoid disconnection.

Less patrol cars for FY2000

Patrol car operations for Fiscal 2000 may be affected after the budget for car lease has been cut from $1.1 million to just over $800,000, according to the Department of Public Safety. The Office of Budget and Management has also drastically reduced the department's budget for fuel to $18,000 for FY 2000 from the current appropriation of $147,000. DPS burns approximately $13,000 worth of fuel every month.

Business sector still hurting

Despite a slight improvement in tourist arrivals, most of the businesses on the island could still barely survive the effects of Asia's financial crisis, with earnings just enough to maintain the day-to-day operation. "It is still a roller coaster ride for most of us," said acting Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Gregg Kresge.

August 04, 2000

Customs chief to get rid of corrupt personnel

Customs Director Joe Mafnas has pledged to rid the division of corrupt personnel due to concerns raised on their possible connivance with unscrupulous businessmen in the smuggling of imported items into the Northern Marianas. "We are in continued monitoring of our customs officers assigned at both the airport and the seaport because we do not want the Division's image be tainted by corrupt personnel who succumb to bribes," Mr. Mafnas said.

Officials inspect Kagman school

The Public School System conducted yesterday a final inspection of the newly constructed Kagman Elementary School following reports of funding problems which delayed its opening. Claiming that funding sources has already been identified, Ed Tenorio, special assistant for budget and management, explained that currently the Office of the Governor and the PSS are working closely to discuss possible refining of fund allocation since the elementary school is set to open a month before the fiscal year begins.

AGO says feds mishandled PCB problem

A preliminary investigation conducted by the Office of the Attorney General revealed that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 and the Army Corps of Engineers committed gross negligence, violated their own policies and federal laws in carrying out the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Tanapag village. Both agencies "endangered the health, safety and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth" as they failed to clean up Tanapag, a northern coastal village in Saipan, following the federal standards, the report said.

August 04, 2003

FBI exposes mafia-like group

Federal authorities have uncovered a mafia-like group that operates an illegal casino in Garapan and resorts to physical violence and intimidation using guns and sticks to collect on high-interest loans owed by the establishment's patrons. The Federal Bureau of Investigation uncovered the existence of the illegal casino and its extortionary methods with the arrest of two Chinese men.

King to resign from Tinian labor post

Janet King will be resigning from her post as resident head of the Tinian Department of Labor to pursue a law degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law. King confirmed in an e-mail interview yesterday that she will be resigning from her job effective August 8. King, a former Miss Northern Ma-rianas Universe 2001, took over as resident department head of the Labor Department on Tinian in May 2002.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW08-RFP-025

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROUTE 201 ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services of the Route 201 Road and Drainage Improvements, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization **(COA)** from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.
The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 21, 2008 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2 nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars **($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. A **Mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on August, 7, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time August 21, 2008.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:
1 . Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - 25%
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - 30%
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - 25%
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - 20%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-RFP-025". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, **August 26, 2008**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, **August 26, 2008** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 26, 2008 and must be received no later than September 4, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration FHWpA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Aquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.
The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW08-RFP-024

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROUTE 11 SABANA ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services of Route 11 Sabana Road and Drainage Improvements, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization **(COA)** from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing **(CNMI BOPL)**. Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 21, 2008 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars **($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. **A mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2 nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on August, 7, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to ~&. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 2d Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time August 21, 2008.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

I . Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) - **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) - **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) - **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) - **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW08-RFP-024"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 26, 2008. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 26, 2008** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 26, 2008** and must be received no later than **September 4, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.
All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR AUGUST 07, 08, 14, 15, 21, & 22, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-604	Coper, Ricardo D.	3K Corporation	August 15, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-662	Lim, Jin Taik	Air World Corporation	August 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-659	Zhang, Fuhua	Air World Corporation	August 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-658	Alvaro, Edilberto C.	An Da International Corp.	August 7, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-425	Batusin, Gemma T.	Aranda, Roxanne D.	August 14, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-639	Fajardo, Florisa P.	Atalig, Felipe Q.	August 21, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-683	Galla, Alfredo G.	Azucenas, Renato G.	August 21, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-617	Jorda, Veronica J.	Babauta, Susana C.	August 15, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-428	Acupan, Milagros F.	Barit, Antonio M.	August 14, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-427	Barit, Mario M.	Barit, Antonio M.	August 14, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-460	Shen, Ying	Cabrera, Fuyun Ya	August 8, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-675	Santos, Ruben, Jr. C.	Calvo, Edward M.	August 21, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-680	Lebrias, Emilio A.	Camacho, Antonio S.	August 21, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-543	Li, Xiuyuan	Castro, Augustin T.	August 22, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-687	Pinote, Marcelino M.	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	August 15, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-691	Nishikawa, Koji	Cordy & Company Limited	August 21, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-690	Ocson, Ivony B.	Cordy & Company Limited	August 21, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-689	Villaraiz, Rosana C.	DLGuerrero, Joaquin Pedro A.	August 15, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-635	Kabir, Humaun	Dong Rim Corporation	August 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-636	Motaleb, Abdul	Dong Rim Corporation	August 7, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-430	Cabalza, Lucille S.	Dulay, Weena P.	August 14, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-665	Cui, Linhua	Future World Inc.	August 22, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-457	Bocatot, Loida F.	Gariguez, Mariano A.	August 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-373	Barce, Abraham J.	HNC Inc.	August 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-641	Wang, Meng	Huang Zeng Corporation, Ltd.	August 22, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-642	Yi, Guanghua	Huang Zeng Corporation, Ltd.	August 22, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-177	Lao, Qiongxiao	Hui Huang Saipan, Inc.	August 22, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-673	Huang, Haiyue	J Min Corporation	August 7, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-424	Mendoza, Eliza C.	Jemikach Co., Ltd	August 14, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-672	Li, Ming Hao	Jin Yong Americana Inc.	August 7, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-620	Joo, Young Hoon	Joo Corporation	August 14, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-455	Sanchez, Restituta R.	JRC Corporation	August 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-626	Hur, Young Joo	JSSJ Inc.	August 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-140	Quan, Zhenyu	JXYZ Corporation	August 8, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-453	Morales, Ariel M.	Kims Corporation	August 8, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-574	Ding, Liqian	Laniyo, Maria Lourdes	August 14, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-445	Abarra, Teofila B.	Larinay, Emmy F.	August 14, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-679	Paras, Virginia A.	Lee Sung Chun	August 21, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-754	Buenicho, Jenelyn T.	Lisua, Alexcia D.	August 21, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-798	Mecate, Merlinda M.	Lisua, Ramon & Alexcia	August 22, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-509	Mendoza, Leila O.	Lobrio, Marie Vic M.	August 14, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-423	Lu, Jiaojiao	Luo's Corporation	August 14, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-517	Crisostomo, Pepe R.	Marianas Security Corporation	August 22, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-655	Xu, Guoquan	Micro. Holding Co., LLC	August 21, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-694	Dioneda, Teresita D.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	August 21, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-693	Tenorio, Dexter G.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	August 21, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-696	Pineda, Josefina C.	Micronesian Engine Services	August 14, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-692	Pabale, Rodofo B.	Misamis Construction Spn. Ltd.	August 21, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-695	Buenviaje, Carmen B.	Muna, Arlene A.	August 15, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-614	Tang, Xue	N.G.Li Corporation	August 7, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-404	Sula, Jose C.	Ngeskebei, Dennis J.	August 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-697	DLC Cordero, Geraldine C.	Noah Corporation	August 21, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-698	Satira, Marjerie R.	Noah Saipan Inc.	August 21, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-573	Zhang, Nirong	Optima Karaoke	August 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-688	Francisco, Elenita G.	Pacific Creative Network	August 21, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-669	Antiquena, Celbueno L.	Pacific Printing Press Inc.	August 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-670	De Guzman, Maribeth C.	Pacific Printing Press Inc.	August 15, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-678	Bantolino, Carlota Alex	PCC Corporation	August 15, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-584	Jeon, Sook Ja Kim	Power Corporation	August 14, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-420	Wu, Li-Hua	Qing Lang Corporation	August 22, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-426	De Guzman, Lorenzo Q.	RVE Enterprises	August 14, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-656	Caintoy, Raquel U.	Sablan, Deverly Davina M.	August 22, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-654	Jing, Yan Li	Sablan, Vicenta M.	August 22, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-205	Sofla, Ronnie D.	Samkor Inc.	August 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-407	Zhao, Huimin	Samkor Inc.	August 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-643	Ling, Min	SDM Enterprises, Inc.	August 22, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-431	Zhou, Jian	Shun Yi American Corporation	August 14, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-664	Sun, Shuqing	SMZ Corporation	August 22, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-631	Hayag, Veben Jose S.	Soloman, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-632	Nuqui, Bonifacio C.	Soloman, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-629	Onal, Erlyn B.	Soloman, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-633	Tibayan, Roderick C.	Soloman, Nicolas M.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-630	Parreno, Roy T.	Solomon, Nicolas M. Jr.	August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-432	Encarnacion, Elsie R.	Sula, Jose C.	August 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-676	Du, Chuanhua	Sunleader Co. Ltd.	August 21, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-677	Li, Xiulan	Sunleader Co. Ltd.	August 21, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-597	Yan, Jintang	Suxin Guo Edboi	August 15, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-619	Tababa, Michelle Den Sharon L.	Tababa, Dionesio	August 15, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-601	Santiago, Ricardo M.	Teregeyo, Marianne C.	August 15, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-458	Monsanto, Christopher M.	Triple K Corporation	August 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-461	De Guzman, Joseph S.	Universal Developers Inc.	August 8, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-681	Hepolio, Henry N.	Wons Corporation	August 7, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-291	Teng, Changwen	Xing Wang Development Corporation	August 15, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-661	Magcalas, Alberto G.	Yuman Construction	August 22, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-660	Macaspac, Noviminda P.	Yumul, Elena M.	August 22, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-657	Li, Na	Yun Feng Corporation	August 22, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-456	Song, Mi Hwa H.	Yuna Corporation, Inc.	August 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Pacific Islands News Association

...and IN MY HARD-HITTING INTERVIEW WITH BARACK OBAMA I WILL ASK the QUESTION THAT SEEMS TO BE ON EVERY REPORTER'S MIND...
...CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE?
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EDITORIAL

The CNMI power crisis: A many-headed monster

Load-shedding. Surges and spikes that damage valuable equipment. Unexpected blackouts that last for hours. August rates at an all-time high (a 235-percent increase over the rates just 10 months ago). A rising debt for our public utility company. The power situation on our islands has become a many-headed monster that threatens the entire Commonwealth.

No individual family in the CNMI is immune to the cost. Businesses, large and small, are experiencing damage from the daily outages which crash valuable equipment and hurt the bottom line. How many residents and businesses will we lose before we tame this beast?

In the rush to find solutions, some island leaders may be responding in ways that further complicate the situation and challenge scarce resources.

A legislative resolution now requests that *all* federal grant money be channeled into one "kitty" for the CNMI to use to fix the problem. There were suggestions that we stop all ongoing and planned projects for other critical services and channel all funds to resolving the power crisis. The power crisis is a gargantuan problem, but robbing Peter to pay Paul when we have other critical needs is really no cure; it will only create another host of problems that will pile one crisis on top of another on our overburdened plate.

Meanwhile, a few CNMI lawmakers are flying to our nation's capital to present a legislative resolution in person to Congress, asking the federal government to help us fix our power problem once and for all. If they do this, will that tame the beast faster? With a congressional staff delegation coming to the CNMI next week, would it have been just as effective to have waited until then and presented the resolution to the group here on Saipan?

CUC itself has not shown a complete picture in terms of how it plans to solve this problem once and for all. Besides the ongoing repairs of some engines and the planned rental of power generators from Aggreko, it has yet to present to the public a step-by-step outline complete with timelines of what it will do to solve this crisis. This vacuum in the information chain is creating deep anxiety within the community and adds another layer to the uncertainty that is sweeping the islands.

The Fitial administration, meanwhile, has resurrected plans to privatize CUC, and will explore co-generation with those businesses that may have extra capacity from their own generators, but do they have the needed expertise? The CNMI's track record in these types of effort is not exactly reassuring. A bid to privatize the utility agency in 2000 stalled and died a natural death due to irregularities in the bid process. During the Babauta administration, the idea was revisited and was quickly dropped after fears that it would boost power rates to unprecedented levels. CUC has had another stab at it about two years ago, but the Office of the Public Auditor shot it down after CUC seemed to turn the process into a fundraising effort.

We have also begun to consider alternative forms of energy—thermal energy, nuclear power, wind power and more. What are the pros and cons of each of these options, how much would it cost to pursue them and bottom line—how long

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What gifts should we give to our children?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

As the we struggle to establish a footing in our economic downslide, who has the time to consider what gifts we should give to our children? Do we give them a gift of almost $300,000,000 debt? Do we give them a better or worse society than the one we have created? Do we merely satisfy all their instant material cravings? Exactly what should we give to our children?

Living and working on Saipan and the father of five children, I am confused as to what gifts we are giving or should be giving to our children. What attitudes are we putting in their minds? When only 200 of our graduating students wish to obtain a higher education, what are the other 600 students going to do without it? Will they either join the military or join the ranks of food-stamp recipients? What ideals and ambitions are we as parents instilling in our children?

I was born of immigrant parents from Sicily who worked hard all their lives. I often reflect on the gifts that my parents gave to my brother, sister and me as children. The gifts were neither money nor property. Instead they instilled in us a strong desire to get an education coupled with a fierce determination to succeed in anything we attempted in life.

When my father arrived in America, he had no schooling and no skills. Somehow he found a job in a small bakery, washing baking pans, sweeping the floor and doing other menial chores. Over the years by watching and asking questions, he learned how to bake and was finally able to open his own bakery.

My mother, also without schooling and no skills, found a job in a clothing factory sewing garments. She taught herself how to sew well until she was hired as a seamstress in a ladies fashion store. Later, she joined my father in their small bakery and grocery store. My father baked and my mother operated the store.

I cannot recall my father or mother ever being absent from or late to work unless they were so sick that it was almost impossible to rise from their beds. They were thrifty with their earnings, yet provided a clean decent home and plenty of food for all of us. They showered love and attention on the three of us children. Basically they lived what they taught us.

As my sister, brother and I enjoyed their love, we somehow picked up their wishes that we obtain a good education and the determination to succeed. My brother became an oral surgeon. My sister received her Bachelor of Arts degree, though late, at age 59. After receiving my master's degree in Liberal Arts, I became a teacher and later a businessman. These are some of the gifts I received from my parents.

In the hope that this short article will start some of us parents thinking about what gifts to give our children, allow me to cite a few. You add or modify the list as you feel. We as parents and society must become aware of the ideals and goals we instill in our children because they will mirror us in a few years! Consider our parents' influence on us and how much we think and act as them throughout our lives.

A. I feel that the first and most important ideal to give our children is the following quote:

"The best gift a father can give to his children is to love their mother. And the best gift the mother can give to her children is to love their father." Think about why this is so important!

B. The next gift is sound *character education*. And one of the most important qualities of character education is *virtuous behavior.* The definition of virtue includes *integrity, industry, and responsibility.* If our children are not educated about the attributes of character necessary to succeed in life, they will not find happiness.

C. If our young people are going to be successful in meeting the tough challenges facing them in our local and world society, we need to instill *mutual respect, tolerance, empathy, civility, humility, honesty, and resolution.* Space limits the discussion of the above qualities but you already know what they mean if you are displaying good character.

D. *Public service* must be taught to our children. We should teach our young people that public service is stimulating, proud and rewarding.

Public service can take many forms from elected public office to volunteer service in the community. The active participation of our children in public service will ensure the greatness of our country. They must become interested in the political and social community about them.

E. A sound education must be taught about our alliances. They must understand and appreciate that they are citizens of the United States and also citizens of the CNMI. Our children must grasp the relationship and understand the history of both countries. If they do not, they will not be able to effectively appreciate or participate in our representative governments.

F. Another one of the greatest gifts to give our children is to instill *confidence and determination* in whatever they attempt to do. Confidence and determination lead to success regardless of the difficulties they will face.

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EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

COE at BOE

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

A number of us at PSS will gather today at Dandan Elementary School, and for eight days, review and refine once more the Standard-Based Assessment program of the public school system. Jacqui Quitugua, I was told, will lead the process and if past events are any indication, we will have an agenda, a clear picture of products, schedule, and roles, and the overarching rationale of why we would want to take our heaven-sent extra vacation time to hassle academic issues indoors when Mother Nature in all its splendor beckons outdoors.

(The cynical among us would see the eight days as nothing but charity offering of substitute teacher's pay rate to pacify the troops, or more practically, to keep pace with the gas station and CUC.)

Some who followed my stream of consciousness musings this summer on this page will recall that I covered quite a geographical expanse since school was let out in June. I visited family and friends in Hawaii, the Midwest, the West Coast, China and the Philippines. This peripatetic pedagogue has enough material to do a doctoral thesis but that would be an overkill since my 6th grade social studies students only need master images of the 6,000 year journey of human civilization since Sargon of Mesopotamia started an empire-building tradition that has so far culminated with GWB and his preoccupation with Armageddon!

I did go off island shortly after I heard that BOE strongly encouraged the retirement of our gentle and genial COE, David Borja. I had an issue with HR about benefits accruing to my teaching certification arbitrarily denied by a BOE decision, and managed to catch Dr. Borja at the end of the day on the phone. Perhaps, in exasperation from the pressures of his office, he finally blurted out that his "hands were tied." My knee-jerk response was tempered through the street-smart language of west-Southside Chicago that in effect would convey the image: If you don't piss, get off the pot! Happily, I recovered my cool and the sentiment never quite found itself expressed in words.

That David chose to be quiet about the surrounding circumstances of his forced retirement speaks more about the refinement of his chosen style; unfortunately, it does not shed light much on the nature of the working relationship between the COE office and the process adhered to by BOE, other than the autocratic pronouncement that the COE functions at the pleasure of the Board!

While working as a trainer for Jeremy Harris' WIA-funded WorkHawaii in Honolulu, I wanted to make sure that our curriculum was expansive of the wide spectrum between maintenance training and innovative learning. To train welfare recipients to be productive units in the workforce, they needed not only the skills and discipline of existing work stations, but also needed to learn how to access the native creativity and intuition to adopt and survive ever shifting situations. I use the same perspective in preparing my classroom curriculum. It might be helpful to use the same in viewing the whole PSS process in all its programs, particularly as the nature of labor and the requirements of the workforce have radically changed in the shift to information technology in our time. Professional development could very well use it as a checklist: which offerings are mostly maintenance training and which sessions target innovative learning.

Back to the COE. With all the acting roles performed at PSS in the last three years, it is very clear that a system is in place that will run regardless of who has his/her hands on the helm. We may just have a rickety tugboat rather than a nuclear-powered carrier, but something is afloat and it sails on its own inertia and momentum. Maybe we can begin imaging a new era of sophisticated sailboats gunning our curriculum designs and directions, appropriating the native navigational skills of our proa-driving ancestors with the refinement of the sateen sails of our Indo-Sino-Malay-Aryan additions to the Pacific cultural and genetic mix.

The rotating COE assignment post-David of school principals is an example of the resiliency of the system in place. Witness the stamina of the perpetually dying Guam School System and you get a picture of what I mean. Of course, if we could decide to move beyond the curriculum programming by grant opportunism and compliance that we currently practice, and the rituals of accreditation rigmarole and fiction writing that each local school go through per assessment cycle, then maybe the COE office may provide enough challenge to a creative soul who might just have the right balance of a visionary, a social prophet, and a competent politician to not only move the system along, but also occasion a leap of faith forward to relevant regions heretofore uncharted and unknown.

I posed that challenge to BOE member Galvin Deleon Guerrero early this summer at a greasy spoon luncheonette in San Francisco while our Mt. Carmel Principal completed the requirements of his master's program in the city by the Bay. For those of us who fancy ourselves trading in the currency of miracles, I was hoping that Galvin would accelerate into warp speed and steer the PSS into warp zones of gain and glory. Suffice to say that we found the lunch a little bit too rich for our *ta tutsi* (protruding midsections in Putunghua), and we parted as colleagues and friends. Galvin's name is not on Lucy Maratita-Blanco's shortlist and will not be on it regardless of how many novenas and Gregorian chants I could muster before BOE's August cutoff day for a decision.

On the shortlist are Ambrose Bennett and Rita Sablan. Ambrose may be a clown (even unintentionally, sometimes) but he is no fool. He is lucid enough to know that since BOE operates on its druthers, even Pope Benedict XVI could not sway the Marianas winds in his direction. I trust that he will, however, push for the objective measures used by the Board to arrive at its decision so that assessment standards would be in place to measure performance. (After all, we SBA our students, and PRAXIS our teachers! It is only fair that we have standard measures to assess our COEs.) If he sticks with the standards and assessment issue, I will read his letter to the editor and he may even be allowed to play the race card, Obama notwithstanding!

Patiently waiting on the wings is our litigious bride, Ms. Rita Sablan. Last Friday's BOE meeting did not result in a nuptial schedule.

PSS can be on autopilot and it will float, aimlessly perhaps, but afloat nonetheless. Craig Harrison's lyrical paean to the Heroes of Education, however, points to a movement toward audacious hope within the system waiting to be intentionalized. There is the reality of the power of concerted efforts, the synergy that results from group solidarity and consensus. The teachers remain a potential waiting to come to its own. The *yin-yang* of interest may just be harnessed for cooperation, collaboration and courage to care. Perhaps, this is the time, and we are the people!

My two eldest daughters made me a grandpa three times the last three years, and both asked me this last trip why I was returning to Saipan, and why I did not just move closer for the sake of the family. In Harry Blalock's aired take on why people leave or stay on island, I may not have yet reached the "turning point." All things being equal, CUC notwithstanding, the island's allure and challenge resonate in my professional career.

I met a former student stacking canned tuna at Joeten yesterday, a part of WIA's summer training program. This is maintenance training in my book. I trust that my student's supervisors at Joeten have an eye on his innovative learning, as well.

And oh, welcome back Rita! SBA crowd, let's get some work done!

THE CNMI

From Page 10

would it be before the community sees some relief?

Given the complexity of the power issue, not to mention the significant "brain drain" going on in the CNMI today, do we really have the needed expertise locally to fix such a difficult technical problem?

The current administration inherited this many-headed monster during the worst fiscal crisis in CNMI history. To be fair, none of our government leaders, past nor present, knew that global fuel costs would rise this fast. Nevertheless, the bottom line is: This monster is killing our community and we must fix the problem fast.

Pointing the finger is not what's needed to solve this issue. We need to work together now in coming up with a coherent, economically viable, practical solution to tame the beast.

WHAT GIFTS

From Page 10

The above suggestions are merely to jumpstart thinking about relationships with our children. Your list will have many more and perhaps will be different from mine. However, if we are diligent in instilling the above ideals in our children they will find their own path in life easily whether it be in academics or as skilled trades persons. But what is important is that we carefully consider the gifts we give to our children. Our influence on them is greater than we realize.

There is one gift that our government and we are giving our children which is not fair and will cause great hardship for years. It is the bestowing of a huge debt close to $300,000,000 on them through no fault of theirs.

If we truly value our children, and wish them to have better lives than we have built for ourselves, we have no choice but to stand up, not only for deficit reduction, but for a systematic plan to reduce the burden of debt that we are piling up daily. Today's parents and grandparents owe it to their children to take care of their own debts. We must not burden our children with our foolish and wasteful way of life. They deserve better.

You and I know that we enrich our own lives as we educate our children. From our young people, we refresh our thinking about optimism, enthusiasm, and new ways of looking at old questions. Indeed, from our children, we learn how to scan new horizons. Let us not place the mistakes we have made on their young shoulders. Let them fly free from the nest and seek new goals. When we give them gifts that add to the zest for life, we can rest assured that we have been good parents.

Whatever gifts we give to our children, tell them over and over: "We love your uniqueness. We love you. We want you to grow up to be all that you can be. You don't have to be like us. You're so bright and creative. You have blessed us by coming. We really love you." And end with a great bear hug. Isn't that what you wished your mother and father had said to you but you never heard? What greater gift is there?

Letters to the Editor

Don't stoop to their level!

Like others who believe in ocean conservation and protecting our natural heritage, I support the idea of a proposed Mariana Trench Monument. Those of us that are old enough to remember what the waters around the southern islands used to be like are wise enough to know that our northern waters deserve protections.

I don't like that some of the non-supporters of the monument have resorted to name-calling. Perhaps if the so-called "enviro-extremists" had been more vocal in years past, we would still have fanihi in our skies, ayuyu covering our land, and a lagoon full of fish.

To everyone that supports the monument, I say keep doing what you are doing. You have more supporters than you think.

Chailang Palacios
Achugao, Saipan

'Shelve HB 16-96'

We support the recommendations of the 16th Legislature's JGO committee report to shelve House Bill 16-96, which seeks the creation of a new Immigration category of "Resident Foreign Nationals." Taotao Tano argued this matter back in August 2007 in the first congressional field hearing concerning federal control of our immigration system. Foreign guest workers have been misled and promised improved immigration status by Wendy Doromal, Dekada, Stephen Woodruff, Jerry Custodio, Rep. Tina Sablan, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, Rep. Edward Salas and Rep. Victor Hocog but they completely ignored homeland security issues.

We do sympathize and recognize the many contributions foreign nationals contributed to the CNMI but they fail to understand and accept that the federal immigration legislation itself is an improved status and if you are here legally and a skilled worker then you should not have a problem going through the federal administrative process.

We firmly believe that House Bill 16-96 is a waste of taxpayer's time and money and it should not proceed any further.

Gregorio Cruz
President, Taotao Tano

We need *pugua* and *donne*!

Hafa adai taotao Marianas! Please send us some *pugua* and *donne* here in Afghanistan. We're missing the hot pepper and the *pugua* (hard). I hope that someone back home is thinking of us back here while we patrol the Afghanistan border. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Be proud of your sons from the CNMI.

SSG Ed Barcinas
A CO 1-26 COB MONTI APO AE 093541

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms near Guam in the afternoon. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

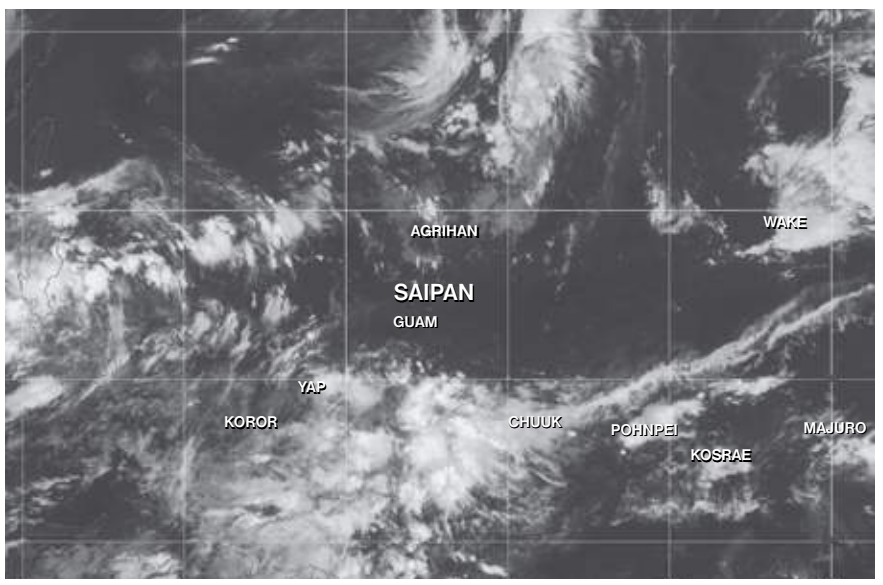
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼72
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲95	▼75
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Honolulu	Sh owers	▲84	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲56	▼45
Miami	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼71
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲93	▼79
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergence associated with a low pressure system centered near 29N147E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Iwo To and parts of the Mariana Islands or between 21N and 25N from 142E to 149E within an area bounded by a line extending from 21N130E to 16N136E to 21N136E back to 21N130E and within 100 miles of a line running eastward from 17N145E to 18N153E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a circulation centered east of Luzon to east of Yap at 10N145E then turns southward to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of Koror or west of a line stretching northward from EQ13E to 11N130E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro or within 175 miles of a line extending eastward from 7N147E to 5N167E and between 2N and 8N from 170E to 179E. An upper-level low centered north of Wake Island near 27N164E and associated upper-divergence is enhancing scattered shower and isolated thunderstorm activity over Wake Island or between 17N and 25N from 165E to 172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:47AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
8:57AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:55PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:23PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	6:00AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:01AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:01AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:01AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:21AM	8:48PM
Tuesday	9:13AM	9:25PM
Wednesday	10:03AM	10:01PM
Thursday	10:53AM	10:39PM
Friday	11:44AM	11:19PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Island Snapshots

KARIDAT DONATION

The NMC Nursing Club donates boxes of used clothes, toys, bags and other things to Karidat on Friday, Aug. 1, 2008. The club expressed its thanks to all club members for participating, donating and showing a good example to the community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC NURSING CLUB

Members of the NMC Nursing Club pose with club adviser Cyndy Tice. The club has been helping out the community through medical outreach and volunteering in various government agencies in their mission to promote a healthy CNMI. Also, the club has been collecting useful materials from its own members to help the community not only with its services but in any way it can.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

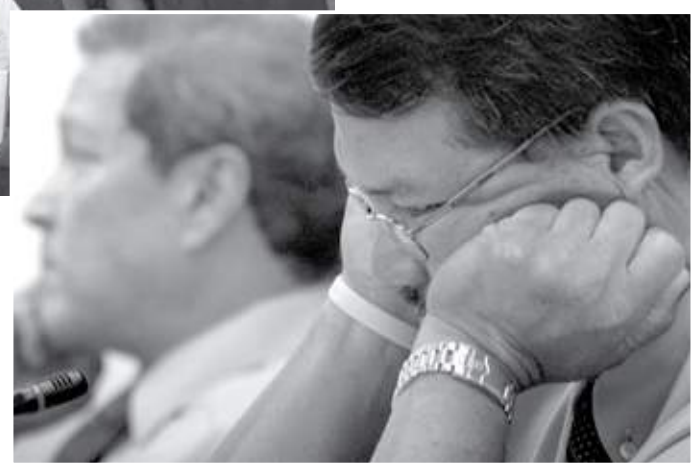
ENGLISH CLASS

Journalist and volunteer teacher Haidee V. Eugenio, center, last row, poses with her English course students at the Marianas Business Plaza on Saturday. Many volunteer professionals in the CNMI have been sharing their time and knowledge with other Filipino workers through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMC Nursing Club has expressed willingness to participate in any community outreach programs where it can be of help. Those who need the club's assistance may contact club adviser Cyndy Tice.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A somber Rep. Diego T. Benavente reviews a document during a session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill. Also in photo is Rep. Joseph C. Reyes.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

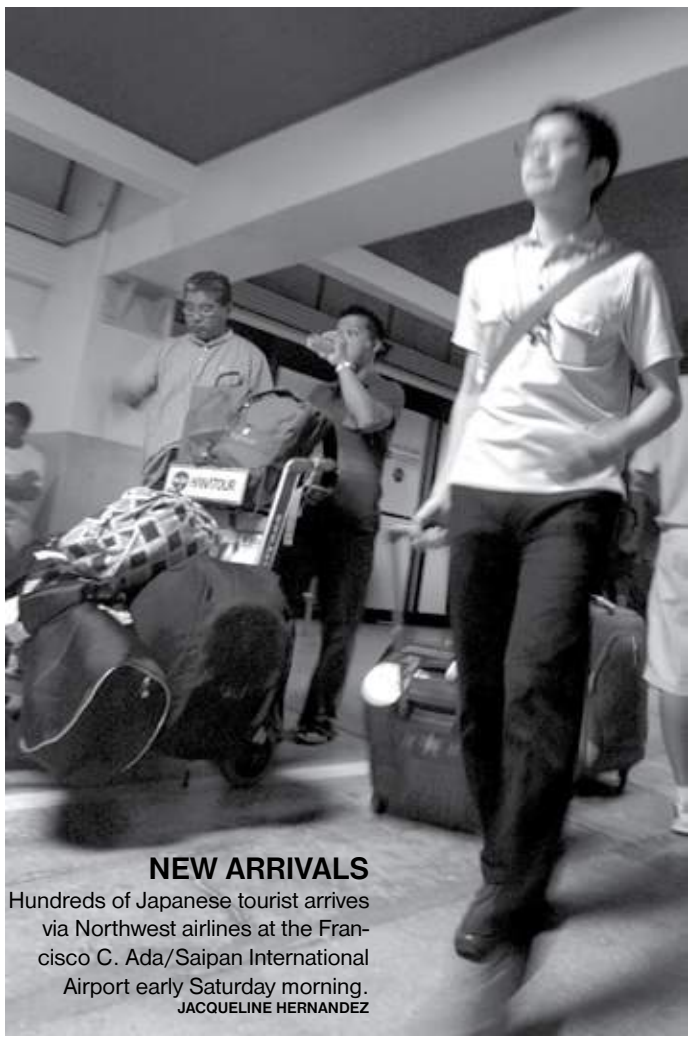
HOUSE SESSION

Rep. Edward T. Salas, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb review some documents while Speaker Arnold I. Palacios looks on during a session break at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios share a light moment with Rep. Justo S. Quitugua and Rep. Ralph DLG Torres during a session break at the House Chamber on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



NEW ARRIVALS

Hundreds of Japanese tourist arrives via Northwest airlines at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Business

Big Oil's biggest quarter ever: $51.5B in all

HOUSTON (AP)—Oil giants Chevron Corp. and Total SA wrapped up a string of gargantuan, record-breaking earnings reports Friday, a stretch in which six of the major international oil companies topped $50 billion in combined profit for the first time.

While the profits of unparalleled size have brought withering criticism from Washington and disgust from consumers across the country, very few were surprised. Crude prices during the second quarter were nearly double what they were a year ago.

Chevron said Friday its second-quarter profit rose 11 percent to a record $5.98 billion.

Revenue rose significantly to $82.9 billion from $56.1 billion a year ago.

But results for the second-largest U.S. oil company missed Wall Street forecasts and shares fell.

■■■

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices ended slightly higher Friday, pushing back above $125 a barrel as the threat of a conflict with Iran rattled energy markets after a week of wild swings.

The gains, however, were limited by lingering beliefs that fuel prices are still too high for cash-strapped Americans who are already cutting back on driving to save money.

In another sign of waning demand for gasoline, U.S. filling stations hungry for business lowered the price of a gallon of regular overnight by just over a penny on average to $3.898, according to auto club AAA, Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Gas is down 5.2 percent from record high of $4.114 a gallon reached July 17.

■■■

Like its competitors, Chevron made the bulk of its money at its exploration and production arm, also known as the upstream, where income nearly doubled from a year ago to $7.25 billion.

Chevron said the average sales price for crude and natural gas liquids was $109 a barrel in the quarter, up from $57 a barrel in the year-earlier period.

In addition to Chevron, soaring commodity prices led to record quarters for Exxon Mobil Corp., ConocoPhillips, BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC. Exxon Mobil stood apart even from this crowd, logging the largest ever quarterly operating profit for a U.S. company. Barring companies that made huge profits on one-time gains like bankruptcy settlements and spin-offs, Exxon Mobil holds the top 10 records for biggest U.S. quarterly earnings.

French energy company Total SA said Friday its profit climbed 38.7 percent in the second quarter to $7.38 billion. Quarterly sales rose 23 percent to $75.25 billion.

Altogether, the profits of the six companies jumped more than 40 percent in the second quarter to $51.5 billion, the first time big Western oil companies have ever reached that level.

AP

Operators work on a oil well pumping unit at the Red Ribbon Ranch Oil Lease, San Joaquin Facilities Management Inc., Monday, July 28, 2008 in Bakersfield, Calif.

Jobless rate climbs as 51,000 jobs vanish

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stores, factories and other businesses large and small showed workers the door last month, sending unemployment to its highest rate in four years and adding to the evidence an economic recovery remains far off.

Employers clamped down on hiring and cut 51,000 jobs in July, the Labor Department said Friday. The economy has shed jobs each month this year—463,000 in all.

The unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent, up from 5.5 percent in June.

The jobs report contributed to another day of grim news for the economy. General Motors reported a staggering quarterly loss of more than $15 billion and said its sales fell by more than a quarter from last year.

AP

Jobs brochures on display at a state unemployment office in Sunnyvale, Calif., Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

The Commerce Department said spending on construction projects around the country dropped 0.4 percent in June as cutbacks in home building eclipsed gains in commercial construction.

And manufacturers' business was flat in July. The Institute for Supply Management's reading of activity from the producers of cars, airplanes, appliances and other goods hit 50, down from 50.2 in June. A reading above 50 signals growth.

Job losses in July were the heaviest in industries hard hit by the slow housing market, the clampdown on credit and the shaky financial sector. Manufacturers cut 35,000 jobs, construction companies 22,000 and retailers 17,000.

US auto sales slump to 16-year low in July

DETROIT (AP)—U.S. auto sales slumped to a 16-year low in July as automakers failed to keep up with consumers' growing demand for smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles. While production changes may help that problem, trouble in the credit and auto leasing markets will continue to take a toll on sales.

General Motors, Ford, Toyota and other automakers said Friday that their U.S. sales fell by double-digits. Nissan Motor Co. was the only major automaker to report a gain, with truck sales up 18 percent thanks in part to the new Rogue crossover and a boost in incentives. Nissan's overall sales rose 8.5 percent.

AP

In this April 20, 2008 file photo, unsold 2008 Ram pickup trucks sit at a Dodge dealership in the south Denver suburb of Littleton, Colo.

Automakers were expecting a slide in July as high gas prices continued to cut into sales of trucks and sport utility vehicles and new troubles in the auto leasing sector further wrecked consumers' confidence. July's seasonally adjusted sales rate—which shows what sales would be if they continued at the same pace for the full year—was 12.5 million vehicles, according to Autodata Corp. That's down from 17 million as recently as 2005.

Automakers expect things to get worse before they get better.

"We expect the second half of 2008 will be more challenging that the first half as economic and credit conditions weaken," Ford's marketing chief, Jim Farley, said in a statement.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks pull back after another decline in jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street retreated again Friday after readings on jobs and manufacturing - the first reports for the third quarter - indicated that businesses and workers still face a tough economy. The major indexes ended a turbulent week narrowly mixed. The market was considerably calmer than the first four sessions of the week, when the Dow Jones industrials rose or fell by triple digits each day in response to economic data or news about the financial sector. The Dow fell 51.70, or 0.45 percent, to 11,326.32. The blue-chip index ended the week down 0.39 percent. Broader stock indicators also lost ground Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 7.07, or 0.56 percent, to 1,260.31, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 14.59, or 0.63 percent, to 2,310.96.

GM posts $15.5B 2Q loss, 3rd-worst in its history

DETROIT (AP)—With another huge quarterly loss now in its rearview mirror, General Motors Corp. faces the ominous task of raising revenue by selling cars rather than trucks. But even with plans to boost production of its hot-selling fuel-efficient models and cut output of unpopular trucks and sport utility vehicles, the company is running short on time if it keeps burning through more than $1 billion in cash every month. GM on Friday reported a $15.5 billion second-quarter loss, the third-worst quarterly performance in its nearly 100-year history. Through the first half of the year it used up more than $7 billion in cash, including $3.6 billion from April through June. Company officials are prepared for an economic downturn that could last until 2010.

Citigroup faces charges by Cuomo, SEC probe

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo on Friday said he is prepared to charge Citigroup Inc. with fraudulent sales of auction-rate securities and with the destruction of key documents. Cuomo joins the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators in examining Citigroup's sale of auction-rate securities. They believe the instruments were being aggressively marketed despite a rapid weakening in trading. Auction-rate securities have their interest rates set at periodic auctions, depending on the submitted bids. The investments were once considered safe, but the market collapsed in February amid turmoil in the credit markets. Citigroup is the latest bank to disclose regulators are seeking information on its sales of auction-rate securities.

Settlement will reduce carcinogens in potato chips

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four food manufacturers agreed to reduce levels of a cancer-causing chemical in their potato chips and french fries under a settlement announced Friday by the state attorney general's office. California sued H.J. Heinz Co., Frito-Lay, Kettle Foods Inc., and Lance Inc. in 2005, alleging they violated a state requirement that companies post warning labels on products with carcinogens. The companies avoided trial by agreeing to pay a combined $3 million in fines and reduce the levels of acrylamide in their products over three years, officials said. Acrylamide forms naturally when starchy foods are baked or fried. Studies have shown the chemical, which also has industrial uses, causes cancer in lab animals and nerve damage to workers who are exposed to high levels.

FCC rules Comcast violated Internet access policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—A divided Federal Communications Commission has ruled that Comcast Corp. violated federal policy when it blocked Internet traffic for some subscribers and has ordered the cable giant to change the way it manages its network. In a precedent-setting move, the FCC by a 3-2 vote on Friday enforced a policy that guarantees customers open access to the Internet. The commission did not assess a fine, but ordered the company to stop cutting off transfers of large data files among customers who use a special type of "file-sharing" software. Associated Press reports on Comcast's activities led to the complaints filed with the FCC.

Nation

McCain vetting Va. congressman as possible VP

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- John McCain's campaign has asked Virginia Rep. Eric Cantor for personal documents as the Republican presidential candidate steps up his search for a running mate, The Associated Press has learned.

Cantor, 45, the chief deputy minority whip in the House, has been mentioned among several Republicans as a possible running mate for McCain. A Republican familiar with the conversations between Cantor and the McCain campaign said Cantor has been asked to turn over documents, but did not know specifically what records were sought.

The individual spoke on the condition of anonymity because neither the McCain campaign nor Cantor's office wishes to discuss the running mate selection process.

McCain

Cantor

Cantor through a spokesman declined to comment. McCain spokesman Brian Rogers said the campaign would have "no comment on anything related to the vice presidential issue."

With just weeks till the national conventions, McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama have knuckled down in their search for vice presidential candidates. They have been regularly huddling behind closed doors with a small circle of advisers to examine the backgrounds and records - and weigh the political implications - of at least a handful of prospects.

Cantor has been a visible McCain surrogate for weeks, appearing frequently on cable news outlets chiefly to promote McCain's positions on domestic and economic issues. He has been a forceful critic of Democrat Barack Obama's resistance to lifting the federal ban on oil and gas drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Cantor has strong support among the party's conservatives, perhaps comforting a segment of the GOP base that has been reluctant to embrace McCain, who has often been at odds with members of his own party on several issues, including a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, federal funds for embryonic stem cell research and campaign finance reform.

Report: Therapist feared scientist poisoned people

FREDERICK, Md. (AP)—Bruce E. Ivins, the late microbiologist suspected in the 2001 anthrax attacks, had attempted to poison people as far back as 2000 and his therapist said she was "scared to death" of him, according to court testimony that emerged Saturday.

Social worker Jean Duley testified at a court hearing in Frederick on July 24 in a successful bid for a protective order from Ivins—who five days later committed suicide - that he "actually attempted to murder several other people."

Ivins took a fatal dose of acetaminophen, the active drug in Tylenol, as federal authorities monitored his movements and prepared to charge him with the murder of five people who died from anthrax poisoning in the weeks after the Sept. 2001 terror attacks. An audio recording of the court session was obtained by The New York Times and posted on its Web site.

The glimpse of the man at the center of the anthrax probe came as investigators consider how to proceed in their investigation.

Answers to one of the nation's highest profile unsolved mysteries are in documents that could be released as early as this week - and help explain how the government chased the wrong suspect for years.

Prosecutors were mulling this weekend whether to close the anthrax poisoning investigation, possibly as early as Monday or Tuesday. If that happens, court documents detailing newly developed scientific evidence that recently led the government to Ivins may be unsealed.

AP
A hazardous materials unit worker is hosed down on Capitol Hill in this Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2001 file photo where worked continued inspecting buildings and offices for anthrax contamination.

Five people died and 17 others were sickened when anthrax-laced letters began showing up at congressional offices, newsrooms and post offices soon after Sept. 11, 2001.

Hawaiian man is accused of helping China design missile

HAIKU, Hawaii (AP)—Cheryl Gowadia couldn't figure out why FBI agents in riot gear, guns drawn, were storming her home on Maui's tranquil North Shore.

At first, she thought they might be after the man building a pond in her backyard. Instead, she was stunned to learn they wanted to question her husband, a former B-2 stealth bomber engineer.

Gowadia

"This came out of nowhere," Gowadia said.

A week later, on Oct. 13, 2005, agents arrested Noshir Gowadia, a native of India who received a Ph.D. at 15, on suspicion that he sold military secrets to China.

Maui, a mostly rural island of 140,000 known more for big-wave surfing and five-star resorts, is an unlikely place for a spy saga.

But prosecutors say Noshir Gowadia used Maui as a base to design a stealth cruise missile for China. He was indicted on 21 counts of conspiracy, money-laundering and falsifying tax returns.

Despite the seriousness of the charges, the case has received scant public attention.

The defendant has been out of sight since a judge determined he was a flight risk and denied him bail.

And, adding to his obscurity, Gowadia's trial date has been repeatedly postponed as both prosecution and defense lawyers have sought more time to review thousands of pages of classified evidence.

The trial is now due to begin on Jan. 21. Gowadia has pleaded not guilty.

Kidnapped girl found in Baltimore; father charged

BALTIMORE (AP)—A man accused of kidnapping his 7-year-old daughter during a supervised visit in Boston last weekend was arrested Saturday in Baltimore and the girl was found safe, authorities said.

A "concerned citizen" tipped off authorities that the man known as Clark Rockefeller was living in a Baltimore apartment and had a 26-foot catamaran sailboat docked at a nearby marina, Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said.

Rockefeller will be arraigned Monday to begin extradition proceedings. He is charged with felony custodial kidnapping, assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, Davis said.

Investigators invented a ruse to get Rockefeller out of the apartment and away from the child. They called the suspect and told him that his boat was taking on water.

He was arrested when he left the apartment, Davis said. The girl,

AP
This undated photo released by the Boston Police Department shows Reigh Boss.

Reigh Boss, was found apparently unharmed inside.

"Her first words were she was very happy to see very nice people ... she was ecstatic," said Noreen Gleason, FBI's assistant special agent in charge of the Boston division.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tug repeatedly warned before Miss. River collision

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The pilot of a huge tanker urged a tug boat pushing a barge to get out of the way of the tanker just before a collision on the Mississippi River, which caused thousands of gallons of fuel oil to spill from the barge into a busy stretch of the inland waterway, Coast Guard radio transmissions showed. Despite the tanker pilot's repeated warnings to the tug, no one on the smaller boat responded to the radio messages, according to recorded excerpts released Saturday. The July 23 collision and ensuing fuel spill shut down shipping traffic on a stretch of the river for several days.

NYC girl survives 180-foot fall down chimney

NEW YORK (AP)—A 12-year-old girl just wanted to show her cousin the view from her family's Manhattan rooftop. Instead, she fell into a chimney and plummeted down the flue for 14 stories, emerging nearly unscathed to tell her story after landing in a pile of furnace soot. Grace Bergere, a young rock drummer, was recovering at a hospital on Saturday with an injured hip. A 2-foot-deep pile of ash and dust probably saved her life by cushioning her fall when she crashed into a basement furnace, fire officials said. "I broke my leg! I broke my leg!" she yelled out after rescuers spotted her soot-caked hand reaching out for help. Fire Chief Austin Horan said the 12-year-old emerged "relatively unscathed" from the accident Thursday night at the Westbeth Artists Housing complex in the West Village neighborhood.

Border towns grieve together after river shootings

KINGSFORD, Mich. (AP)—Two towns united in sorrow Saturday after a massacre that took place at the body of water that has always divided them. Mourners in Niagara, Wis., and Kingsford scrawled "rest in peace" in crayon on signs in car windows and hung posters in store windows urging residents to "pray for the families." Two days earlier, an armed Scott J. Johnson allegedly jumped from bushes and opened fire on a group of at least five young swimmers who were relaxing by a popular bridge over the Menominee River. Three teens were killed, and a 20-year-old was injured. Johnson disappeared for nearly 16 hours after the shooting before emerging from a wooded area, throwing down his rifle and surrendering to police.

Arizona boy, 12, charged with mom's fatal shooting

DOUGLAS, Ariz. (AP)—Police say a 12-year-old Arizona boy shot and killed his mother with a handgun after an argument. Cochise County sheriff's spokeswoman Carol Capas says deputies were called to a home Friday near Douglas on the Mexican border. They found 34-year-old Sara Madrid shot multiple times, and she died at a hospital. The boy was booked into the county juvenile detention center on a charge of first-degree murder. Capas says the boy was at home with his mother, stepfather and a sibling when an argument broke out. The parents left, and when they returned the boy opened fire on his mom. No one else was hurt. Capas says she does not know what the argument was about.

Fire crews close to containing fire near Yosemite

MARIPOSA, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters are close to containing a 53-square-mile wildfire that has destroyed more than 20 homes in the mountains outside Yosemite National Park. Fire officials say the blaze was about 90 percent contained Saturday afternoon. All evacuation orders have been lifted. The fire was started by a target shooter last week and has destroyed 21 homes, forced the evacuation of 350 residences and left a smoky haze over the national park. Fire officials say more acres have already burned in 2008 than in any year since the 1930s, when the state began compiling statistics.

Asia

China's Olympic ambitions falter with protests

By CHARLES HUTZLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—The short, catchy film commissioned by the Chinese government was designed to plant a new, positive image of China in foreigners' minds for the Beijing Olympics.

But instead of airing worldwide more than two months ago as planned, the 30-second TV spot is only now about to reach viewers, having been delayed repeatedly by Tibetan riots, a devastating earthquake and foreign criticism buffeting the games.

China's hopes that the Olympics starting Friday will be a pivotal moment in national glory and global acceptance have been battered by unforeseen events. The disappointment has left some in China hurt and feeling unjustly treated.

The Chinese "tried hard to impress the world and to prove the country deserves respect and appreciation," said Xu Guoqi, a China-born historian at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. "But the West used the Olympic torch relay and the coming games to shame the country and frequently remind the Chinese they were not good enough."

The August Olympics still may appear picture-perfect on global TV, despite concerns about air pollution, overbearing security and media restrictions. Enthusiasm among Chinese for a strong showing by Team China remains high. But where officials once spoke of hosting the greatest games ever, they now seem ready to settle simply for an incident-free event.

"A safe Olympics is the biggest indicator of the success of the games," Vice President Xi Jinping, the senior-most Communist Party leader overseeing preparations, told a rally of volunteers last month.

AP

Fireworks light up the National Stadium also known as the "Bird's Nest", during the dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008.

Olympic torch reaches quake-ravaged region

GUANG'AN, China (AP)—Crowds roared with delight and waved hundreds of Chinese flags in welcome as the Olympic torch began an emotional tour of Sichuan on Sunday, three months after a powerful quake devastated large swaths of the lush, mountainous province.

A minute of silence to honor the victims of the earthquake was held before the start of the run in Guang'an. The city is about 190 miles from the epicenter of the quake but was unscathed.

Thousands of people were on hand, some wearing orange, red and white T-shirts that said "Light the Passion, Share the Dream." They were gathered in a tourist park that honors communist patriarch Deng Xiaoping. Guang'an is his hometown.

A traditional drum performance was held before the first of 189 torch bearers set off on the 4.5-mile route. The way was lined with thousands of people, many waving Chinese and Olympic flags.

"I'm so moved ... it's been a long wait. Even if we have to wait for hours it is worthwhile," said 28-year-old government worker Li Lei. Li, who said he cried when the torch run started, is from An county near Beichuan in northern Sichuan, one of the hardest-hit areas in the earthquake.

Another man said the torch would help Sichuan rebuild.

"The torch represents peace and harmony. The Olympic spirit will give us strength to rebuild," said Qin Yi, also a government worker.

After Guang'an, the torch will wind through four more cities, including Mianyang, which was threatened by post-quake floods and provided shelter for tens of thousands of residents whose homes were destroyed by the magnitude-7.9 temblor.

Dozen-plus militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A bus carrying a wedding party struck a mine in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province, killing the bride and groom and eight others, a police official said.

Provincial police chief Matiullah Kahn said children were killed in the bombing, which he blamed on Taliban militants. Eight other people were wounded, he said.

Khan said the bride and groom were among the dead, but an AP Television News cameraman later interviewed the relatives who was said the groom was among the wounded. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the differing accounts.

A Taliban-led insurgency has engulfed much of southern and eastern Afghanistan, with more than 2,700 people - mostly militants - killed this year, according to an Associated Press tally of figures from Afghan and Western officials.

The civilian deaths Saturday came after the U.S.-led coalition said some of its forces used airstrikes to kill more than a dozen Taliban fighters, also in southern Afghanistan.

Coalition troops were in a joint patrol with Afghan forces when their convoy was struck by a roadside bomb in Uruzgan province on Friday, the coalition said in a statement. The joint force retaliated against the attackers and also called in the airstrikes, it said. There were no casualties among Afghan or coalition troops.

Bomb at bridge kills 9 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb exploded at a bridge on Saturday, killing at least nine security forces in a valley where Pakistani troops are battling Islamic militants, police said.

Police officer Bashir Khan said the remote-controlled bomb hit a vehicle traveling from police headquarters in Mingora, the main town in the troubled Swat valley, as it carried money to pay the salaries of the staff in the nearby town of Kabal.

Khan said the bomb was planted at a bridge between the two towns.

Senior police officer Khalid Nasim said the attack killed six police and three paramilitary troops. He said four others were wounded.

Initially police said two other officers were missing and feared abducted, but they were later accounted for.

Security forces are fighting pro-Taliban militants in Swat, 90 miles from the capital, despite a May peace deal reached with the government.

Both sides accuse the other of reneging on its terms, leaving the pact on the verge of collapse although neither side has formally pulled out.

On Saturday, security forces carried out search operations in the Matta area. No other violence was reported in the valley except the bombing, said army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas.

On Friday, the government of North West Frontier Province accused the pro-Taliban forces of having an "anarchist agenda." It said in a statement the militants had destroyed 61 girls schools, depriving 17,000 in Swat of education.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indian police: 40 killed as bus plunges into river

PATNA, India (AP)—Police in northern India say 40 farm laborers have died after a truck carrying them home from the fields plunged into a river. Police officer S. P. Shukla says 35 people were killed in the accident late Saturday and five others died in a hospital. At least 80 people were believed to have been crammed into the back of the truck when the driver lost control, sending the vehicle into the river near the village of Ghoomsa. Ghoomsa is about 80 miles south of Patna, the capital of India's Bihar state.

S. Korean leader to attend Beijing Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak will make a two-day trip to China this week to attend the Beijing Olympics. The presidential office said Sunday that Lee is scheduled to attend Friday's opening ceremony of the games and meet Chinese President Hu Jintao and leaders of other countries. The trip will mark the first time that a South Korean leader has attended an Olympics opening ceremony on foreign soil. Lee is scheduled to return home on Saturday after meeting South Korean athletes.

Indonesian man dies of bird flu, official says

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian factory worker died of bird flu, bringing the death toll in the country worst hit by the virus to 112, a top health official said Sunday. The 19-year-old died last week in a hospital just west of the capital, Jakarta, Nyoman Kandun, the director general of communicable disease control at the Health Ministry, said by text message. He gave no additional information. Indonesia has regularly recorded human deaths from bird flu since the virus began ravaging poultry stocks across Asia in 2003. Its toll of 112 accounts for nearly half the 240 recorded fatalities worldwide. So far most human cases have been linked to contact with infected birds.

N. Korea to expel S. Koreans from tourist resort

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says it will eject South Koreans from a mountain resort in the communist country, a further sign of fraying ties between the divided countries. The move comes after a South Korean tourist was shot by a North Korean soldier at the resort last month, prompting strong protests from Seoul. The North's military unit in the resort said in a statement carried Sunday by the official Korean Central News Agency that it would expel South Koreans deemed "unnecessary" from the area. The North also warned it would take military action against "even the slightest hostile actions" in the Diamond Mountain resort and its military areas.

World

Ahmadinejad insists that Iran won't give up nuclear rights

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran will not give up "a single iota of its nuclear rights," the country's president said Saturday, rebuffing an informal deadline to stop expanding uranium enrichment or face more sanctions.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made the remarks during discussions with Syrian President Beshar Assad, who arrived in Tehran Saturday for a two-day visit, the Iranian president's official Web site said.

Assad is in Tehran to discuss Iran's controversial uranium enrichment following a request from French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Ahmadinejad

Tehran was given an informal two-week deadline, set July 19 by the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members plus Germany, to stop expanding uranium enrichment—at least temporarily—in exchange for their commitment to stop seeking new U.N. sanctions.

Ahmadinejad's stance signaled both a failure of Assad's mission and a rejection of the deadline, although his comments indicated he was not ruling out international talks on Iran's nuclear program.

While stating that the Iranian nation "will not give up a single iota of its nuclear rights," he also said any participation in international talks on the nuclear issue would be aimed at reinforcing those rights.

Assad, who has been seeking a more prominent Mideast role for Syria, promised Sarkozy during a visit to France in July to try to persuade Iran to offer proof to the West that it isn't developing nuclear weapons.

Syria is Iran's closest Arab ally—the two countries have had close relations since 1980, when Syria sided with Persian Iran against Iraq in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Palestinian fighting in Gaza spikes, 9 killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- Hamas forces battled Fatah-linked fighters with mortars and machine guns in a crowded Gaza neighborhood Saturday, leaving at least nine dead in the worst Palestinian infighting in nine months.

About 88 people were injured, 12 of them children, hospital officials said.

Loud explosions and gunfire could be heard throughout the day in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shijaiyeh, a stronghold of the Fatah-allied Hilles clan. Hamas accuses the clan of hiding suspects responsible for a car bombing last week that killed five activists of the Islamic militant group.

Hamas and the largely secular, Western-backed Fatah have waged a violent struggle for control of Gaza for years. But there have been few signs of Fatah resistance since Hamas seized control of the strip in June 2007.

Relations between the factions deteriorated sharply last week after the car bombing that killed Hamas militants in Gaza and each side has been cracking down on political opponents with growing intensity. Hamas in Gaza and Fatah loyalists of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas who control the West Bank have carried out mass arrests.

AP

An Israeli soldier looks on, as blindfolded Palestinians, believed to be Fatah supporters who fled the fighting in the Gaza Strip and crossed into Israel, stand near the Nahal Oz military base on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008.

In the West Bank, Abbas' troops enforced a new ban on public assembly and expanded their arrest sweep beyond Hamas. Club-wielding security men arrested and beat dozens of supporters of a non-violent Islamic group.

The Gaza clashes began when Hamas raided Shijaiyeh under heavy morning fog. Security forces stormed several high-rise buildings and rounded up rooftop snipers, gunmen and wounded fighters, said Islam Shahwan, a Hamas police spokesman.

Heavy battles with mortars and machine guns ensued. Three Hamas policemen and a Hilles member were killed, hospital officials said.

It was the deadliest internal Palestinian fighting since November when Hamas police killed seven people in a Fatah-organized memorial rally for the late Yasser Arafat.

Ahmed Hilles, a clan leader and Fatah official, said Hamas police cut off electricity as they launched the raid. He explained why the clan fought back.

"You have to decide: Either be trampled under Hamas' shoes, or stand in dignity," he told The Associated Press by telephone, with gunshots crackling in the background. Hilles fled to Israel later in the day, Israeli military officials confirmed.

Hundreds protest Kurdish demands over Kirkuk

BAGHDAD (AP)—More than 1,000 Sunni Arabs and Turkomen rallied Saturday against Kurdish demands to incorporate the oil-rich area around Kirkuk into their autonomous region, on the eve of a special session of parliament aimed at defusing the crisis.

The dispute over Kirkuk and its vast oil wealth has blocked passage of legislation providing for provincial elections this year, a major U.S. goal aimed at reconciling Iraq's rival ethnic and religious communities.

Protesters in the town of Hawija, west of Kirkuk, carried banners rejecting Kurdish demands for control of Kirkuk, said Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qadir of the Kirkuk police.

The rally ended without any violence, but residents said the atmosphere was tense in Kirkuk, where a suicide bomber killed 25 people Monday during a Kurdish protest.

Last month, Iraq's parliament approved legislation to hold elections for local councils in all 18 provinces, including Tamim, where Kirkuk is located.

The measure said seats on the ruling council in the Kirkuk area should be divided equally among Kurds, Turkomen and Arabs. It would also transfer security responsibilities in Kirkuk to mostly Arab military units brought from central and southern Iraq instead of those already there - an apparent move against Kurdish peshmerga troops heavily deployed in the area.

But Kurds and their allies, who currently hold a majority on the council, oppose the power-sharing formula. Iraq's three-member presidential council rejected the measure and sent it back to parliament after President Jalal Talabani—a Kurd - opposed it.

Parliament adjourned for a one-month summer recess last week but agreed to hold a special session Sunday to try to resolve the standoff and approve a new election bill. Electoral officials have said failure to pass the bill could delay the nationwide vote until next year.

The United Nations has recommended postponing provincial elections in Kirkuk as a way of ensuring the balloting elsewhere in the country.

'Canada bus killer ate victim's flesh'

TORONTO (AP)—A police officer at the scene of a grisly beheading on a Canadian bus reported seeing the attacker hacking off pieces of the victim's body and eating them, according to a police tape leaked on the Internet Saturday.

In the tape of radio transmissions, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer refers to the attacker as "Badger" and says he is armed with a knife and scissors and is "defiling the body at the front of the bus as we speak."

On the tape, which lasts about 80 seconds, officers continue to detail the attacker's movements until one reports, "Badger's at the back of the bus, hacking off pieces and eating it."

The RCMP described the tapes as "operational police communications and, as such, are not meant for public consumption." Police said permission had not been given to use the radio transmission, which was posted on LiveLeak.com and picked up by other Web sites.

Officers were responding to a desolate stretch of the TransCanada Highway about 12 miles from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, after the bloody attack late Wednesday on the bus traveling from Edmonton, Alberta to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Vince Weiguang Li, 40, faces second-degree murder charges for the murder of a 22-year-old man, who friends and family identified as Tim McLean. Police have not confirmed the victim's identity.

Passengers said they had just reboarded the bus following a break when the suspect—for no apparent reason—stabbed the man sitting next to him dozens of times as passengers fled in horror. He then severed the man's head, displayed it and began hacking at the body.

Li's employer said in an interview Saturday that he was shocked to learn that his "model employee" had been accused of the grisly attack. Vincent Augert, an independent contractor who distributes newspapers in Edmonton, said that Li was one of his most reliable carriers.

"He was very punctual and always cleanly dressed," he told The Associated Press. "He was a very nice, polite guy. We would've had no reason to let him go before all this happened."

Augert said Li had worked for him since last July and caused no problems.

Obsolete coins cause chaos at Zimbabwe tills

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabweans dug out coins squirreled away years ago in jars and cupboards and headed for the shops, where lines built up as overburdened tellers more accustomed to counting mounds of hyper-inflated dollar notes instead were juggling silver.

The central bank, overwhelmed by stratospheric inflation, this week cut 10 zeros from the currency and reintroduced coins made obsolete in 2002 when they became worthless.

A $1 coin now is worth 10 billion of the old dollars.

On Friday, about 20 $1-coins—or 200 billion Zimbabwe dollars—could buy a loaf of scarce bread if it could be found in a downtown supermarket. That's about $5 at the official rate and $2 at the black market rate that better reflects the value of the currency.

"It has been a chaotic day," said Farayi Chikomba, a teller filling plastic banking bags with coins at a small supermarket at closing time. "Customers have been digging out their old coins."

AP

A man carries a bag filled with old Zimbabwean coins to a bank in downtown Harare Friday August 1, 2008.

Lines built up as staff counted the coins.

"It's a bonus for anyone like me who didn't know what to do with coins and didn't throw them away," said businessman Frank Takavara, who carried a cookie jar full that bought him a small sachet of powdered milk.

Chikomba said he received a few new $10 and $20 notes issued by banks Friday. But most purchasers still used coins, old notes or checks. The old currency remains effective until December, being used alongside new bills in the "revalued" currency rate introduced Friday.

The biggest new bill is $500, equivalent to 5 trillion in the old denominations. Two weeks ago, the bank had introduced a $100 billion-dollar note.

Bank executives said many branches still were waiting for deliveries of new currency from the central bank late Friday, the first day of issue.

Health & Fitness

CDC understated new HIV infection count

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP) -- The number of Americans infected by the AIDS virus each year is much higher than the government has been estimating, U.S. health officials reported, acknowledging that their numbers have understated the level of the epidemic.

The country had roughly 56,300 new HIV infections in 2006 - about a 40 percent increase from the 40,000 annual estimate used for the past dozen years. The new figure is due to a better blood test and new statistical methods, and not a worsening of the epidemic, officials said.

But it likely will refocus U.S. attention from the effect of AIDS overseas to what the disease is doing to this country, said public health researchers and officials.

"This is the biggest news for public health and HIV/AIDS that we've had in a while," said Julie Scofield, executive director of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.

Experts in the field, advocates and a former surgeon general called for more aggressive testing and other prevention efforts, noting that spending on preventing HIV has been flat for seven years.

The revised estimate by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the methodology behind it were to be presented Sunday, the opening day of the international AIDS conference in Mexico City.

Since AIDS surfaced in 1981, health officials have struggled to estimate how many people are infected each year. It can take a decade or more for an infection to cause symptoms and illness.

One expert likened the new estimate to adding a good speedometer to a car. Scientists had a good general idea of where the epidemic was going; this provides a better understanding of how fast it's moving right now.

"This puts a key part of the dashboard in place," said the expert, David Holtgrave of Johns Hopkins University.

Judging by the new calculations, officials believe annual HIV infections have been hovering around 55,000 for several years.

"This is the most reliable estimate we've had since the beginning of the epidemic," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, the CDC's director. She said other countries may adopt the agency's methodology.

According to current estimates, around 1.1 million Americans are living with the AIDS virus. Officials plan to update that number with the new calculations but don't think it will change dramatically, a CDC spokeswoman said.

The new infection estimate is based on a blood test that for the first time can tell how recently an HIV infection occurred.

Past tests could detect only the presence of HIV, so determining which year an infection took place was guesswork—guesswork upon which the old 40,000 estimate was based.

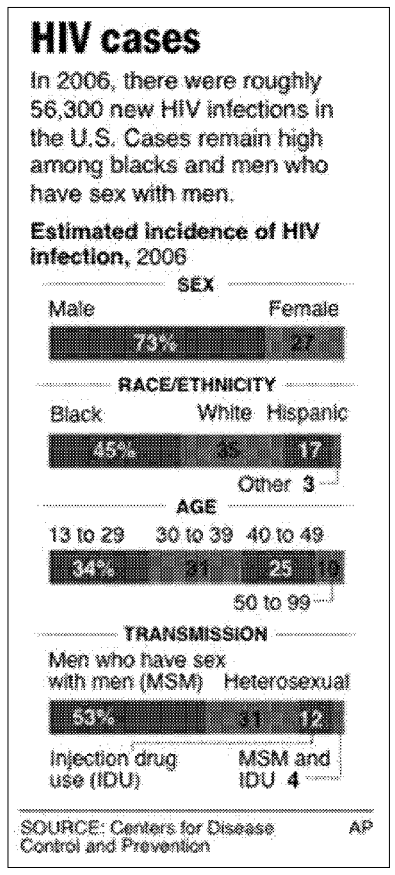
The new estimate relies on blood tests from 22 states where health officials have been using a new HIV testing method that can distinguish infections that occurred within the past five months from those that were older.

The improved science will allow more real-time monitoring of HIV infections. Now, CDC officials say, the estimate will likely be updated every year.

Yearly estimates allow better recognition of trends in the U.S. epidemic. For example, the new report found that infections are falling among heterosexuals and injection drug users.

Some experts celebrated that finding, saying it's a tribute to prevention efforts, including nearly 200 syringe exchange programs now operating in 36 states despite a federal ban on funding for such projects.

But they also lamented the CDC's finding that infections continue to increase in gay and bisexual men, who accounted for more than half of HIV infections in 2006. Also, more than a third of those with HIV are younger than 30.



Some advocates say that suggests a need for more prevention efforts, particularly targeting younger gay and bisexual men.

For years, AIDS was considered a terrifying death sentence, and since 1981, more than half a million Americans have died. But medicines that became available in the 1990s turned it into a manageable chronic condition for many Americans, and attention shifted to Africa and other parts of the world.

Last week, President Bush signed a $48 billion global AIDS bill to continue a program that he called "the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in human history."

But some advocates complain that CDC's annual spending on HIV prevention in the United States has been held to roughly $700 million since 2001, while costs have risen. (That's about 3 percent of what the federal government spends on AIDS; much of the rest is on medicines, health care and research.)

The new estimate is "evidence of a failure by government and society to do what it takes to control the epidemic," said Julie Davids, executive director of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project.

Whether more funding comes or not, the revised estimate clearly is a "wake-up call to scale things up," said Dr. Kevin Fenton, who oversees CDC's prevention efforts for HIV/AIDS.

Some said more attention needs to focus on prevention among blacks, who account for nearly half of annual HIV infections, according to the new CDC report.

A recent report by the Black AIDS Institute concluded that if black Americans were their own nation, they would rank 16th in the world in the number of people living with HIV.

"We have been inadequately funding this epidemic all along. We need to step it up," said former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, who is now an administrator at Atlanta's Morehouse School of Medicine.

The new estimate has been anticipated for a long time. The CDC began working on the new methods nearly seven years ago.

Late last year, advocates said they had heard the figure was about 55,000 and pressed the CDC to release it. Agency officials declined, saying they were submitting their research for medical journal review.

"These are extremely complicated statistical methods," and CDC officials wanted the work to be thoroughly reviewed by outside experts, Gerberding said. The CDC's findings are being published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Until 1992, the number of diagnosed AIDS cases was used to predict how many people were newly infected each year. That method produced an estimate of 40,000 to 80,000. More recently, the CDC focused on infections among men who have sex with men, who account for about half of new HIV diagnoses.

ON THE NET

CDC HIV fact sheets:
http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/
JAMA: http://jama.ama-assn.org

Weight issues can affect school performance

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Overweight kids are at risk for a host of health complications, including elevated cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure. They also might do more poorly in school.

When grade-point averages were compared among 566 middle school students in a Philadelphia suburb, overweight students came in at about half a grade point lower than normal-weight kids.

The study, published in the July issue of the journal Obesity, also found that overweight students had lower reading comprehension scores on a nationally standardized test, ranking in the 66th percentile; normal-weight kids ranked in the 75th percentile. Heavier kids were also five times more likely to have six or more detentions than their normal-weight peers, had more school absences and lower physical fitness test scores, and were less inclined to participate on athletic teams—37 percent compared with 75 percent of normal-weight students.

Stuart Shore, a doctoral candidate in kinesiology at Temple University in Philadelphia and lead author of the study, speculates that overweight kids who have low self-esteem might be less inclined to attend school and might not relate well with their teachers.

AP
Obese patients take their lunch at the Aimin Fat Reduction Hospital in Tianjin, China, Thursday, July 24, 2008.

by Andrea Wyatt
M.S.S., C.S.C.S.

Prepare your body for an active vacation

Q: My family and I have a trip planned this summer to Europe, where we will be walking and hiking a lot more than I had planned. What can I do to prepare for this trip so I do not spend the entire time sore or, even worse, injured?

A: Preparing for vacations that might be physically demanding can be just as important as remembering to pack everything. Taking time to prepare your body for the trip to come should be on your list of things to do prior to leaving.

Being able to enjoy your vacation injury-free is important. Begin at least a month before the trip to give yourself enough time to condition your body. If you are not currently exercising, you might need to start even earlier. Although starting to exercise a week before the trip is better than nothing, you want to give yourself enough time to allow your body to adjust. Working hard for a few weeks before the trip might make you even sorer, but that shouldn't discourage you. Get moving, but pace yourself.

If you are accustomed to working out, keep up your currently workout schedule and add a few exercises to prepare for walking and hiking. If you're using a treadmill, try walking at an incline; if walking outside, try to find hills to prepare for walking uphill. Strength training is always a plus, as it will prepare your muscles for the endurance required for days and days of activity.

If you plan to walk or hike carrying a backpack, practice walking with it so your legs, shoulders and back can get accustomed to the added weight. You may be used to walking at home in the neighborhood, but the added weight of the backpack and its contents could make it more challenging.

Don't forget to wear the proper clothes and shoes. The wrong shoes can cause blisters and make your vacation miserable. Break-in any new shoes prior to the trip—don't wait to wear them the first day of your trip.

Taking care of your body to prevent injuries is a top priority. Know your limitations and handle any small issues as soon as possible. Stretch when needed, ice if necessary and rest if possible. Remember that although you are on vacation, the activities you will be completing are just like a workout at the gym. Let your hard work exercising pay off by having an enjoyable and safe vacation.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

LaBeouf lawyers: Left hand 'crushed' in wreck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf could have a long road before him as he recovers from the accident that crushed his hand, his lawyer says.

LaBeouf, 22, was injured in a late-night crash last Sunday in West Hollywood that flipped his truck. The "Indiana Jones" star was cited for drunken driving, but authorities have since said he was not at fault, and that the other driver apparently ran a red light.

Michael Norris, LaBeouf's attorney, said in a statement Friday LaBeouf underwent four hours of surgery. His left arm remains immobilized from the elbow down.

"He will need regular medical supervision until his doctors clear him to return to work," Norris said in the statement. "His doctors remain hopeful that he will fully recover, but due to extensive surgery and the nature of the injuries, there remains a substantial risk of both infection and other complications."

LaBeouf

Photos posted on entertainment blogs Friday showed the actor wearing jeans, a ballcap and a T-shirt missing one sleeve as he smoked a cigarette outside the Los Angeles hospital where he has been recovering since the surgery. Bandages and a brace cover his left arm, leaving only his pinkie finger exposed.

LaBeouf has been filming the "Transformers" sequel, "Revenge of the Fallen." Director Michael Bay said the injury may be added to the script.

"His two fingers are pretty smashed, but we're figuring out a way to shoot around it, kind of write it into the story," Bay told "Access Hollywood" in an interview airing Friday.

Bay claimed his leading man was not drunk at the time of the crash and insisted that "that's gonna go away."

"He was drinking hours and hours before," Bay told the syndicated entertainment show.

LaBeouf's passenger in the accident was Isabel Lucas, a 23-year-old Australian actress who appears in the "Transformers" sequel. She was not injured.

Sheriff's officials have said they won't release the other driver's name until the official investigation is completed and a report is issued, which could take weeks.

AP
This image made from video provided by WWW.HOLLYWOOD.TV shows the overturned vehicle of actor Shia LaBeouf in Los Angeles on Sunday, July 27, 2008.

LaBeouf's attorney said the actor has cooperated with police and that independent investigators "received information that suggests that the other driver may have been traveling upwards of 50 miles per hour, and that said driver may not have been looking forward at the time of the accident."

"We are very appreciative, again, of the patience that everyone has shown us, and of the many concerned citizens who have stepped forward to provide information regarding this collision," the statement continued, adding that anyone with information about the accident was urged to call Norris directly.

LaBeouf has more than a dozen film credits, including last summer's blockbuster "Transformers," which grossed more than $700 million worldwide. Steven Spielberg was a producer on the first "Transformers" (and is again for the sequel), and he cast LaBeouf as Harrison Ford's son in "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" - a sought-after role in which LaBeouf evoked the look and attitude of a young Marlon Brando.

LaBeouf can next be seen in the thriller "Eagle Eye," due next month.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Monday, August 4

Today is Monday, August 4, the 217th day of 2008. There are 149 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1539—Ghent rebels fight against Mary of Hungary, Regent of the Netherlands.

1578—Portugal's King Sebastian is killed when his forces, on a crusade to Morocco, are overwhelmed by a larger Moroccan army.

1621—French Royalist Army begins Siege of Montauban against Huguenot rebels.

1892—Andrew and Abby Borden are axed to death in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. Lizzie Borden, Andrew's daughter from a previous marriage, is accused of the killings and acquitted.

1907—French fleet bombards Casablanca, northwest Morocco, following anti-foreign outbreaks.

1914—Germany invades Belgium, opening World War I fighting; Britain declares war on Germany; United States declares its neutrality.

1916—Denmark sells Danish Virgin Islands to United States for $25 million.

1922—Fighting breaks out between fascists and socialists in Italian cities.

1944—Nazi police capture 14-year-old Anne Frank and seven other Jews in hiding places in Amsterdam during World War II.

1950—Moscow negotiates a trade and barter agreement with Iran, two days after large quantities of American machinery financed by loans arrive to start improvement projects meant to alleviate unemployment in Iran.

1958—The Greek Cypriots EOKA Underground declare a military truce in Cyprus with Turkish Cypriots and British security forces. They vow to continue fighting if provoked.

1964—The bodies of missing U.S. civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney are found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

1968—Israeli planes carry out a heavy raid on Arab guerrilla bases 10 miles (16 kilometers) inside Jordan, where 23 civilians and 5 soldiers are killed.

1971—U.S. Apollo 15 spacecraft heads back to Earth after a six-day mission exploring Moon.

1977—U.S. President Jimmy Carter signs a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

1982—Three days after the U.N. Security Council demanded a cease-fire in the Lebanon war, Israeli tanks roll across the "green line" into west Beirut in an attempt to drive out the Palestine Liberation Organization. Seventy people are killed.

1986—Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reluctantly offers to impose limited sanctions against South Africa.

1990—Twelve nations of European Community ban oil imports, embargo arms and suspend most trade with Iraq after invasion of Kuwait.

1993—Japan's Cabinet resigns, ending 38 years of rule by the Liberal Democratic Party.

1994—Yugoslavia withdraws support for Bosnia's Serbs, sealing the 300-mile (483-kilometer) border between Yugoslavia and Serb-held Bosnia and backing out of a war it bankrolled for more than two years at the expense of its own economy.

1995—Croatia launches a massive attack on breakaway Serbs, bombarding rebel towns and shelling U.N. peacekeepers.

1997—Six people are shot dead in restaurant in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, apparently part of a drug war.

1998—Taliban forces take the town of Saripul in Afghanistan, paving the way for an attack on opposition stronghold Mazar-e-Sharif.

1999—Letters given to U.S. President Bill Clinton by Russian President Boris Yeltsin are made public, including one written by Jacqueline Kennedy days after her husband, President John F. Kennedy's assassination, asking Soviet leaders to maintain peaceful U.S. relations.

2000—Queen Mother Elizabeth celebrates her 100th birthday as thousands line the roads of London to cheer her. Her popularity stems in part from her activities during World War II, traveling with her husband, King George VI, and visiting and sympathizing with their subjects.

2002—In an electoral tie, Bolivia's Congress select Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, a wealthy mining magnate and former president, as the country's next president.

2003—The first 200 members of a West African peacekeeping force arrive in Liberia's in an effort to stop more than two months of fighting between government forces and rebels, and allow food and medicine to enter Monrovia.

2005—A U.S. Army interrogator is demoted but spared a prison sentence for roughing up an Afghan prisoner who later died.

2006—Leftist rebels are blamed for a car bomb that kills four officers and separate attack that kills two soldiers as Colombia prepares for President Alvaro Uribe's second-term inauguration.

2007—NASA launches The Phoenix Mars Lander, a robotic dirt and ice digger, rocketed on a nine-month, 422 million-mile journey that will culminate in the first ever landing within the red planet's Arctic Circle to analyze soil and ice, looking for traces of organic compounds.

Today's Birthdays:

Percy Bysshe Shelley, English poet (1792-1822); Hans Christian Andersen, Danish fairy-tale writer (1805--1875); Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth (1900-2002); Louis Armstrong, U.S. jazz musician (1901-1971); Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat (1912-1947); Rene Goscinny, French author of Asterix (1926-1977); Assia Djebar, Algerian author (1936--); Billy Bob Thornton, U.S. actor (1955--). (***The Associated Press)***

Message of Appreciation

We, the Children of the late

MARIA TENORIO CABRERA DELA CRUZ

wish to extend our heartfelt deepest and warmest appreciation to our relatives and friends from Saipan, Guam and U.S. Mainland for the genuine compassion you showed as during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and all considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to joy. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you.

We would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, monetary and in-kind assistance its well as those who assisted us during these difficult and painful times. To all our families and friends who gave us support on the funeral day, we are forever grateful. We also deeply appreciate your presence and prayers at the eighteen days nightly Eucharistic masses celebration of our dearly beloved mother's journey unto her new life.

We would like to give a special thank you to Father Charlie Borja, the St. Jude Choir and especially to Father Jesse Reyes, for blessing us with your presence and service and for embracing our needs to make our dearly beloved mother's last day a memorable one.

To the doctors and nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center, Thank you for the patience and medical attention that was extended to our dearly beloved mother. Again, we will always treasure in our hearts your kind expression and our encouragement. Thank you very much.

From the Family

At 53, Costner enjoys being in charge

By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When Kevin Costner was 18, he wanted to drive across the country with friends. His friends wouldn't come, so he went by himself.

When he was 19, he wanted to go work on fishing boats. He implored his buddies to join him, but they refused. He went on without them.

When he was in his early 50s, he decided to make a movie about a dim, profane, beer-guzzling New Mexican hillbilly who is called upon to decide the outcome of a presidential election. Had they been asked, some of Costner's friends (and who knows how many studio executives)might've passed on this particular adventure, as well.

Which is, of course, irrelevant. The comedy "Swing Vote" opens Friday.

"Some people say I'm a loner. And the truth is, I don't think that at all 'cause I love people," Costner says, his blue jeans and scuffed boots in sharp relief to the floral pattern of a Washington hotel sofa during a recent media tour. "What I'm not afraid to do is GO alone."

The 53-year old actor seems to have fully assumed the posture of an aging cowboy, one who has ridden the land long enough to wearily know its secrets, schisms and sorrows. His tan face, lined and freckled, leads to a thinning muss of ash-blond hair. Sunglasses stay on indoors, and there is more seriousness than warmth to his presence.

"I can't be talked out of what I think I like," he says staunchly, as if a line had been drawn in the sand. "Whether it's friendship or professional direction or whatever."

It is a life of his choosing, he would say, including a career defined in equal measure by stunning success and profound mediocrity. Such is the fate of an actor who found himself able to green-light multimillion-dollar projects with just a nod and scribbled signature.

"I'm not worried about being judged," he proclaims with a swagger befitting the boots. "I didn't want to be held back by the conventions of fear or the conventional wisdom of anything. Because, you know, what if everybody's wrong?"

Costner has produced (and thus possessed a requisite degree of control over)15 of the more than 40 films he has appeared in since the early 1980s. Among them is 1990's sweeping epic "Dances With Wolves," which garnered seven Academy Awards, including the one Costner took home for Best Director. Also among them are last year's horror flick "Mr. Brooks," 1999's romance "Message in a Bottle" and the extravagant 1995 box office bomb "Waterworld."

Asked if going alone also means that when failure comes, it comes on his own terms, Costner balks.

"What is failure? What are you talking about?" he asks. "I have movies that the perception at the box office was that it wasn't a number one movie or didn't make a $100 million but goes to pay TV and makes $40 million on top of the thing, then goes to DVD. By the time the movie's all done, the studio has made $30 million. That's a good business."

THE WASHINGTON POST

"Some people say I'm a loner. And the truth is, I don't think that at all 'cause I love people," actor-producer-director Kevin Costner says during an interview in Washington on a recent media tour. "What I'm not afraid to do is GO alone."

"What is a success?" he continues. "The ability to continue to repeat yourself."

And what's the potential harm, in Costner's mind, when others (marketing gurus, studio heads, directors) tamper with his vision for a project?

"The problem that I have ... is that a movie rings around my neck for the next 20 years. And the people who made decisions about it are not around. It's just, it's suddenly become MY movie," he says, with transparent exasperation. So rather than continue to fight the system, he has assumed dominion over his work, shepherding scripts and using his own money when necessary.

Costner was the principle financier of "Swing Vote," reportedly coughing up $21.2 million to fund the project.

■■■

Costner got into acting at 19. He'd studied business in college to elicit the confidence of his working-class Californian parents, but he knew that wasn't for him. "I realized that I had to find out what made me happy," he remembers. "I didn't know what the right path was, but I did begin to know that I was a storyteller."

Almost 35 years later, that's still what this is about."You know, my movies are a little longer than the average movie. I love story," he says.

"Swing Vote" is no exception. The script had been circulating in Hollywood for a while,getting passed over, he says, because it was perceived as a strictly American movie that wouldn't play well with foreign audiences.

"So it was like that somehow made it not worthy, you know? And I thought, no, just the opposite. I think it's fine," the actor recalls of his first encounter with the screenplay. "I read it, and I said to the guy, 'I'll do it, if I produce it and make it the way I want to make it.' "

And that's what he did, creating not the typical Disney studio, G-rated family fare but instead a PG-13 movie rife with profanity, alcohol and scenes of a strung-out mother. "You know, (movies) are full-on experiences, and sometimes they have moments that are going to make you wince," he explains. "I didn't want it to be softened."

And is he happy with the result? "Yeah, I was. I mean, is it flawed? They all are," he says. "But is it really what it's supposed to be? It absolutely is."

Having the control he now insists upon in films "doesn't mean that they're gonna be hits," he concedes. "All it means is they're gonna be really close to what they were on paper."

Of the finished product, Costner says he thinks the film has the potential to be a classic. He has thought that, actually, about all of them.

"I've never starred in a movie that I didn't think had a chance to be a classic," he insists.

In the span of four years, from 1987 through 1990, Costner's credits included "No Way Out," "Bull Durham," "Field of Dreams" and "Dances With Wolves." Looking back, Costner sees neither providence nor luck in that streak, just persistence.

" 'Dances' was a movie that wasn't gonna be made. 'No Way Out' was a movie that wasn't gonna be made ... 'Field of Dreams,'obviously no one knew what that movie was going to be. 'Bull Durham'? We couldn't get any studio to make that movie," he recalls. "So, historically, the movies that have lived have always been almost more difficult to make."

But with the exception of "Dances," the films that sparked his ascent into superstardom were not ones over which he had ultimate creative control.

In "Swing Vote," Costner is betting that 2008 audiences can feel as tenderly about the electoral process as 1989 audiences did about baseball in "Field of Dreams."

He does, certainly. The actor is a political man. A registered Republican early in his career, Costner has since moved to the left and says he is following this presidential election carefully, though he has not endorsed a candidate.

His latest release is clearly timed to take advantage of this fiercely competitive election season. And beyond a star-studded cast that includes Kelsey Grammer, Dennis Hopper, Nathan Lane and Stanley Tucci, it features a train of cameo appearances that flash across the screen like a yearbook montage of Official Washington: Chris Matthews, Tucker Carlson, James Carville, Arianna Huffington, Larry King and more.

The movie's takeaway moral—every vote really does count—is one Costner adamantly argues extends to the high-profile residents of Hollywood.

"People like myself become marginalized really quickly," he says. "The side that you come out for is happy, and the side that you don't just suddenly renders you an idiot."

Costner is as unwilling to let politicians define his ideology as he is to let studio executives define his work. He seems determined to be in command of every aspect of his life.

In addition to four older children, the actor has a 14-month-old son, Cayden Wyatt, with second wife, Christine Baumgartner. What Costner wants out of the next couple of decades, he says, is "to make sure I'm the person that raises him. I want him to know the things I know."

And, he continues, "I want to stay relevant in my own life. ... I want to have the freedom to not be locked into just doing the thing that people identify me with. You know, if I want to do my music, I do my music. If I want to quit making movies, I'll quit making movies."

(How's that old cowboy song go? "Let me ride through the wide open country that I love/ Don't fence me in.")

And success now? Box office performance has nothing to do with it. Instead, it's as simple as this: "That I am still an author of my own life. That I'm not being told what to do.

"That I do what I want to do."

Rushdie threatens to sue ex-guard over book

LONDON (AP)—Author Salman Rushdie is threatening to sue a publisher over a book by a former bodyguard that he says portrays him as cheap, nasty and arrogant and depicts his police guards as drinking on duty.

Rushdie's lawyer, Mark Stephens, said Saturday that he had written to the publisher of "On Her Majesty's Service" demanding it withdraw the book, which has not yet been published.

Rushdie

The book is co-written by Ron Evans, a former Metropolitan Police officer who was one of the team guarding Rushdie while he was under an Iranian-backed death threat for his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses."

The Guardian newspaper reported Saturday that the book claims Rushdie billed the police force for officers' overnight stays at his house; that guards nicknamed him "Scruffy"; and that at one point they locked him in a cupboard while they went to the pub.

Rushdie told The Guardian that the book portrayed him as "mean, nasty, tight-fisted, arrogant and extremely unpleasant."

"In my humble opinion, I am none of those things."

He said Evans' claims were "fictitious" and "absurd."

"I am not trying to prevent him from publishing this stupid book, but if they publish it there will be consequences and there will be a libel action," Rushdie was quoted as saying.

Stephens, who also does legal work for The Associated Press, said he wrote to the book's publisher, John Blake Publishing Ltd., on Wednesday asking it to withdraw the book and remove "the falsehoods relating to our client and his friends, the various statements that invade their privacy and statements about security precautions that remain in place."

"Unless you are prepared to take these steps, I shall issue proceedings against you," the letter said.

Calls to John Blake Publishing went unanswered Saturday.

The book was due to be published next week, but Internet retailer Amazon lists no date for its availability.

The Metropolitan Police said the force could not comment on Evans' allegations, but said in a statement: "We regret that he chooses to publish this book."

"The Satanic Verses" angered many in the Muslim world and brought a death sentence for blasphemy from Iran's then-leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Rushdie lived in hiding for a decade until the Iranian government distanced itself from the order in 1998, saying it would not back any effort to kill Rushdie. He has since gradually returned to public life, and spends much of his time in New York.

'Christina Applegate has breast cancer'

AP

Actress Christina Applegate, of the new television comedy "Samantha Who?," is seen during the ABC Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., in this July 26, 2007, file photo.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christina Applegate reportedly is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

According to the syndicated television newsmagazine "Extra," a representative of the actress released the following statement late Saturday:

"Christina Applegate was diagnosed with an early form of breast cancer. Benefiting from early detection through a doctor ordered MRI, the cancer is not life threatening. Christina is following the recommended treatment of her doctors and will have a full recovery."

A message left with Applegate's publicist was not immediately returned.

Applegate, 36, has earned Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for her starring role in ABC's comedy "Samantha Who?" She helped establish the upstart Fox network in 1987 as ditzy teenager Kelly Bundy on "Married ... with Children."

Bernie Mac hospitalized in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Bernie Mac is in a Chicago hospital with pneumonia.

His publicist, Danica Smith, says in a statement that the 50-year-old comedian is responding well to treatment and should be released soon. He remained hospitalized Saturday.

Smith says the pneumonia isn't related to an inflammatory lung disease that Mac also has. That condition has been in remission since 2005.

Mac is a Chicago native who lives in the southern suburbs. He made waves last month with off-color jokes during a Chicago fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Lennox urges women to invigorate AIDS fight

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Annie Lennox says complacency threatens to slow the fight against AIDS.

The singer-songwriter is participating in the international AIDS conference in Mexico City this week as an ambassador for Oxfam.

On Saturday, she urged artists, musicians, filmmakers and women to keep the issue at the forefront. She says, "This dialogue must not go off the table."

Lennox has launched a campaign called "Sing", which includes a song she recorded with 23 female singers to raise money for AIDS. She also is campaigning on behalf of South African women and children infected with HIV.

AP

Singer and AIDS activist Annie Lennox posses for a photograph during an interview with the Associated Press in Mexico City, Aug. 2, 2008.

Madonna returns to Michigan to show film

AP

Madonna poses with filmmaker Michael Moore at the screening of her documentary film "I Am Because We Are" at the Traverse City Film Festival, Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008, in Traverse City, Mich.

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—She might be known worldwide as the Material Girl, but there's more than a little of the small-town Michigan girl left in Madonna.

The pop superstar arrived in this northern Michigan resort town Saturday to introduce her documentary, "I Am Because We Are," a highlight of the Traverse City Film Festival. The event was co-founded by filmmaker, author and fellow Michigan native Michael Moore.

Hundreds of fans cheered from behind barricades as Madonna, wearing a black dress, high heels and sunglasses, stepped out of a black sport utility vehicle that pulled up in front of the State Theatre. She hugged a waiting Moore, who sported an orange baseball cap, and posed for photos with him.

Madonna and Moore shared the stage at the theater before a screening of the movie, which deals with the orphans of Malawi, the African nation where she and husband Guy Ritchie adopted a son.

"It's great bringing my movie to a place that I feel familiar," Madonna told the audience. "Not like the Cannes Film Festival, where nobody's speaking English, or the Tribeca Film Festival, where no one sits down.

"There's something poetic about coming back to the place where I used to come for holidays—camping trips with my dad and stepmother and my very large family," said the 49-year-old singer, born to the southeast in Bay City and raised in the Detroit suburb of Rochester Hills.

Madonna was accompanied by her 11-year-old daughter, Lourdes, and the film's director, Nathan Rissman. Ritchie was not present.

Moore, who won an Oscar for his 2002 documentary "Bowling for Columbine," said he was humbled to be able to call Madonna a friend.

"She has such an incredible heart and such a generous spirit," he said. "She does so much out of the glare of the lights to make the world a better place."

Madonna had praise of her own for Moore, 54, a Flint-area native who has a home near Traverse City.

"There aren't a lot of role models for us in the world, or people we can look up to," she said. "People who are not afraid to stick their neck out, people who are not afraid to stand up for things and be unpopular, to go against the grain, think outside the box.

"And we need, and I need, Michael Moore in my life."

Couple is open about dating while wife is behind bars

Dear Abby

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: For the past six months I have been dating a man I'll call "Tom." Our kids adore each other, our parents think we're a great couple, and our friends love seeing us together. There's just one problem: He's married.

Tom's wife has been locked up for some time, and neither of us ever expected to fall in love. I asked him if he planned on telling her about us, and he said, "yes," because he can't lie about it to her. We've been very open about our relationship.

Now that she's out, I can't help but wonder what I was thinking getting involved in this relationship. Don't get me wrong, Abby. I love Tom deeply, and he feels the same way. His family has been telling him for months that he's crazy if he doesn't leave her. What should I do about this?

NEEDS TO KNOW NOW IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: I can answer that in one short paragraph. Cut off all contact with Tom until he decides that his marriage is over AND files for divorce. Then ask yourself, "Is it worth the gamble to marry a man with as little character as this one has shown?" To paraphrase Stephen Stills, "If he's not with the one he loves, then he loves the one he's with!" And that kind of person is very poor husband material.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: At 29, I guess I could be considered a late bloomer when it comes to dating. I'm trying to figure out how it all works and how to start meeting potential partners. I'm painfully shy around men, but am considering the option of joining some kind of group activity to broaden my acquaintances.

The idea of online dating seems much less threatening, and I know couples who have met that way. However, some of my co-workers have told me that online dating would be degrading and would put me—and my emotions—at greater risk than traditional dating. What would you advise?

DATING ROOKIE

DEAR DATING ROOKIE: You should do both. Joining one or more group activities will give you a chance to polish your social skills and learn to relax around men. And considering the fact that you're starting late, it's a skill that may take a little time to acquire.

You should also check out the Internet social and dating sites. Meeting people online is not degrading, and I have not only heard from readers who met online and married, but also know personally several couples who met that way and are very happy together.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What is the word on men wearing baseball caps into a fairly nice restaurant and not taking them off? I think it is rude, and ruder still for them—and women are guilty of this too—to dress like they just finished mowing the lawn. How do you feel about this?

DRESSED UP IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DRESSED UP: People who wear baseball caps in upscale establishments show a lack of pride in their appearance and an ignorance of good manners. In an effort to promote business, many restaurants have relaxed or done away with their dress codes.

Because there is nothing you or I can do to change it, rather than let it ruin your dining experience, you have two choices: Direct your attention only to what's going on at your own table, or patronize a restaurant that has a stricter dress code.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I BOUGHT LIZ A DOZEN ROSES TODAY ...FOR NO REASON AT ALL!
I BET SHE'LL BE SO SURPRISED...
FOR FIFTY BUCKS, SHE'D BETTER!!!
A FLEETING MOMENT OF MALE CLARITY
JIM DAVIS 8-4
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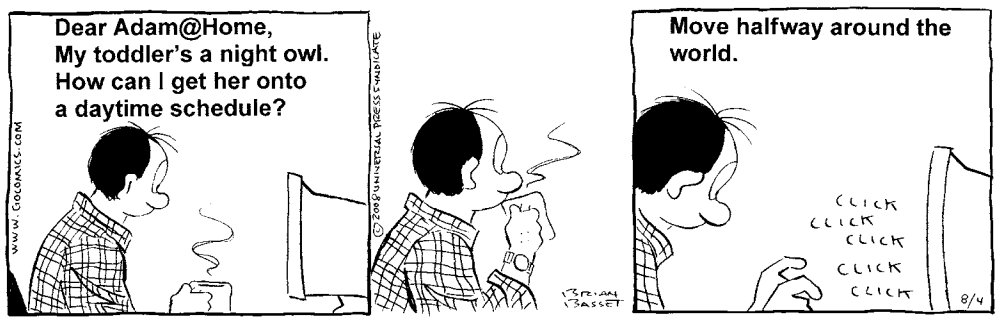
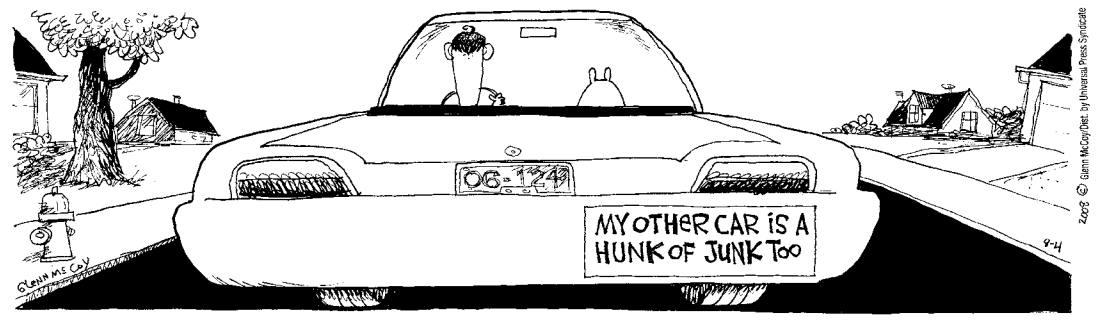
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Dear Adam@Home, My toddler's a night owl. How can I get her onto a daytime schedule?
Move halfway around the world.
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
8/4
BRIAN BASSET
www.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

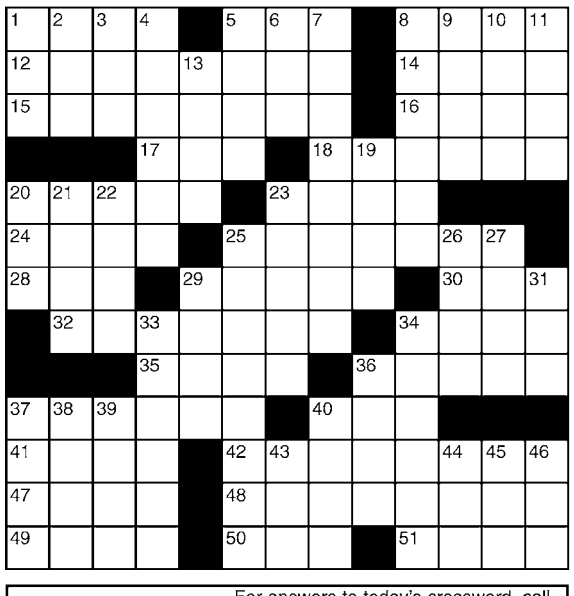
ACROSS
1 Stroganoff meat
5 The stuff we breathe
8 Ship's chassis
12 Partnership, as on reality TV
14 Operatic solo
15 Like many wines
16 The same (Lat.)
17 That woman
18 Cash for a Czech
20 Powerful
23 Mary — Lincoln
24 Gumbo ingredient
25 She of the ill-fated box
28 Teensy
29 Kevin of "King of Queens"
30 Historic time
32 Explained a word's meaning
34 — accompli
35 Pub offerings
36 Teeming crowd
37 Second glassful
40 Old French coin
41 Microwave
42 Not 15-Across
47 Crooked
48 Ocean occurrence
49 Finishes
50 Petrol
51 Pianist Dame Myra

DOWN
1 Rotten
2 "Hold On Tight" band
3 Shade source
4 Party in Puebla
5 Initial chip
6 Here (Fr.)
7 Considered
8 Coiffure
9 Pakistan's language
10 Mortgage interest
11 Tibetan monk
13 Wan
19 Racetrack figures
20 Request for instructions
21 Supplemented, with "out"
22 Gratis
23 Domesticates
25 Wallpaper alternative
26 Hindmost position
27 Desertlike
29 Jack's companion
31 Chowed down
33 Swoons
34 July holiday
36 Rim on a basketball court
37 Judicial garb
38 Divisible by two
39 Ward (off)
40 Resorts
43 — culpa
44 Cravat
45 Mag. staffers
46 — Moines

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	A	S	H	■	H	A	U	L	■	S	A	C
A	S	I	A	■	E	R	N	E	■	P	R	O
M	A	S	T	■	L	E	W	D	■	A	I	D
E	P	I	C	■	M	A	R	■	G	R	A	Y
■	■	■	H	O	E	■	A	C	E	■	■	■
D	E	F	E	C	T	■	P	O	T	A	T	O
U	N	I	T	E	■	■	P	S	H	A	W	■
D	E	E	J	A	Y	■	D	E	T	A	I	L
■	■	■	O	N	E	■	A	S	H	■	■	■
S	W	A	B	■	O	B	I	■	E	S	P	N
T	A	G	■	O	M	E	N	■	A	L	O	E
E	G	O	■	H	A	L	T	■	X	E	N	A
P	E	G	■	O	N	L	Y	■	E	W	E	R

Saturday's answer 8-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeff Gordon, 37; Daniel Dae Kim, 40; Billy Bob Thornton, 53; Richard Belzer, 64

Happy Birthday: Get serious about working toward your goal. An opportunity through one of your peers or someone from your past may be the ticket to future prosperity. Your strength, courage and drive will come back in full force as the year progresses. It's time to take your talents to new levels. Your numbers are 8, 12, 18, 27, 32, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Work hard—make more money. It's simple: Put the effort in or set up an interview for a better position and the rest will be history. Talking with someone who has experience will help you target the best industry for your talents and skills. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may feel like taking a trip but, unless it entails business or financial gains, don't venture too far from home. Entertainment and pleasure-seeking will cost more than you should be spending. Emotional matters will lead to poor choices. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make changes to your personal space. Give it your own unique touch and invite friends over to enjoy the comforts of your home. Love is in the stars so be sure to spend time with someone you find interesting. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Getting together with friends, neighbors or relatives or attending a community event will give you a greater sense of belonging and help you make new acquaintances. An opportunity to partner with someone must be taken advantage of. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Expect things to change rapidly. Don't take risks or travel if you don't have to. An argument is likely to erupt if you take sides or are too vocal about your beliefs. Focus on work, money and getting ahead. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be explosive when it comes to what you want and why. Try to relax a bit and do things that will get your blood pressure down, not up. Change is good, so don't fight it. Acceptance will be your ticket to better times and relationships. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get the facts before you get upset over nothing. You will be confused by what your peers and your boss are doing. A new friendship will develop with someone you meet while helping others. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get serious and you'll be able to get things done. Completion of a project that has taken forever will give you a sense of satisfaction and relief. Someone you are close to is not telling you the truth about how he or she feels. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll lean toward being frivolous and carefree but, in the end, you are likely to pay a handsome price for your fun-and-games attitude. Don't be surprised if someone pulls a fast one on you, leaving you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You are in control and can make some snap decisions that will surprise others and put you in the lead. Great opportunities are apparent that can help you mastermind a settlement or investment for a secure future. Make strategic changes at home. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): So much will depend on how you treat others. A personal or professional partnership will have to reestablish who is responsible for what or problems will develop. Change is inevitable. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotions will be brought to the surface, changing the dynamics of a partnership you are in. Don't use force or you will be shut down and left to go it alone. Opportunities are present but if you use emotional blackmail or underhanded tactics you will lose. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, difficult to resist and tend to keep everyone who knows you guessing. You are adaptable, opportunistic, adventurous, bright and loving.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	9	6	2		3	4	
1			9		5			8
		6				2		
	8			9			6	1
6								3
9	3			1			5	
		8				7		
5			8		4			2
	1	7		6	9	5	8	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	3	5	9	8	7	6	4
9	8	5	6	4	7	1	3	2
4	7	6	2	1	3	9	5	8
5	6	1	3	7	2	8	4	9
8	3	4	1	6	9	2	7	5
7	9	2	4	8	5	6	1	3
6	1	8	9	3	4	5	2	7
3	5	7	8	2	1	4	9	6
2	4	9	7	5	6	3	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MONTREAL SMOKED MEAT **Solution: 7 letters**

N	E	Y	T	A	K	E	O	U	T	D	E	L	I	P
D	R	A	T	S	U	M	V	N	F	C	A	P	M	S
E	A	O	B	I	O	T	A	R	I	R	C	E	A	I
S	P	R	C	I	L	R	H	P	E	I	I	V	R	E
I	E	O	S	R	U	A	S	E	T	S	O	E	T	B
H	R	T	U	A	E	L	U	Y	N	R	E	S	S	S
C	P	G	T	T	L	P	C	Q	I	T	A	R	A	E
N	U	S	A	A	I	A	P	N	R	T	I	N	P	A
A	E	V	A	R	C	N	G	E	R	E	D	C	S	S
R	N	B	H	I	L	O	E	I	P	W	D	L	E	O
F	I	E	L	C	U	I	M	C	I	K	I	R	V	N
O	L	E	(A)	R	N	M	C	C	C	C	P	N	O	I
O	D	F	M	(G)	E	U	H	O	E	L	A	A	L	N
D	E	E	E	D	(E)	S	L	D	D	E	R	U	C	G
S	T	E	A	M	E	(D)	R	A	L	U	P	O	P	K

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Aged, Allspice, Authentic, Beef, Bread, Cafes, City, Cloves, Cold, Crave, Cured, Delicacy, Food, Franchise, Fries, Garlic, Gourmet, Herbs, Lean, Lineup, Lunch, Moist, Mustard, Order, Pack, Pastrami, Peppercorn, Piled, Popular, Poutine, Prepare, Preserve, Quality, Restaurant, Sandwich, Savoring, Seasoning, Sliced, Steamed, Takeout, Taste, Trimmed

Last Saturday's Answer: Las Vegas

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MOSES JOSEPH KAIPAT BUEKIS
PLEASE CONTACT
QIURONG JIE
285-3385

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Find today's solution in this section

Hafa Adai!
SUNDAY
Saipan Trib
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 195
JULY 13, 2008
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FHB warns Guam customers of phishing
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On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the quality of life in the CNMI right now?
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promo
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No discount on Color Rates. No contract plan necessary
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Mickelson, Singh, Westwood tied atop Firestone

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh slugged it out in the trees and on the greens Saturday throughout an up-and-down day at the Bridgestone Invitational until they wound up in a tie for the lead with a far more conventional Lee Westwood.

Mickelson went six straight holes without hitting a fairway, then poured it on late with three straight birdies until he finished with a bogey from the fairway for a 2-under 68.

Singh twice missed par putts from inside 3 1/2 feet, but chipped in from a scary lie above the third hole for birdie and managed a 69. Westwood drove the ball as well as he ever has and made long putts for birdie and par on his way to a 67.

They all were at 8-under 202 and gave this World Golf Championship a truly global feel - three players from three parts of the world, each seeking his first WGC title.

One shot behind was Stuart Appleby of Australia, the only player to compete in all 29 of these events since they began 10 years ago.

"You want to win everywhere, don't you?" Westwood asked. "I'm proud that I've won on every tour, basically. I haven't won a World Golf Championship, so it would mean a lot, and obviously give me a massive amount of confidence going into the next week."

Mickelson won at Firestone a dozen years ago before it was a WGC event, and this might be his best chance at a world title. After straightening out his tee shots, he closed out his string of birdies by going for the green on the 620-yard 16th hole, hitting a hybrid into the back bunker and getting up and down.

But he lost the outright lead on the final hole with a wedge in his hand, blocking the shot enough that it clipped a tree and came up well short of the green. Mickelson failed to save par from 8 feet.

On a Firestone South course that was slowly starting to dry, the third round separated what had been a jammed leaderboard. Even so, 10 players were separated by four shots going into the final round, a group that included Darren Clarke, who had a 65 and was four behind as he tries to win a third WGC title.

After two relatively quiet days, the gallery came to life for a final pairing of Singh and Mickelson, the two best players behind Tiger Woods over the last five years. Mickelson got most of the attention, with one man screaming out, "I love you more than my wife."

But it took a while for them to put on a show.

Singh birdied consecutive holes early, chipping to 3 feet on the par-5 second and holing his delicate chip on the third. But the Fijian hung his head when an approach spun off the false front of the fourth green, and he badly missed from just over 3 feet, setting the tone for a spotty afternoon with his belly putter.

"A few short putts here and there would have made a big difference," Singh said.

Mickelson, who had only broken par three times in the last four years at Firestone, posted his third straight round in the 60s this week thanks to an adjustment in his alignment. He was off slightly early on, hitting his opening tee shot into the trees and missing his mark by some 50 feet with a mid-iron on the second.

But it didn't get his attention until two big misses off the tee on the 11th and 13th, one leading to bogey. Mickelson made sure he was more square to the target, blasted a tee shot on the 14th and began his run of birdies.

"I didn't really address it until I missed it big on 11 and 13 because I had been playing so well, and I felt like it was only a couple of yards off the fairway most of the time," Mickelson said.

Westwood, a 35-year-old from England, hasn't won since the British Masters last summer but is far more comfortable with his consistency over the last eight months. He had a chance to win his first major at the U.S. Open, missing a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole at Torrey Pines to miss the playoff by one shot.

"Winning is strange," Westwood said. "Sometimes it doesn't go your way. Sometimes, somebody else plays a little bit better."

That could be just about anybody on Sunday, although Mickelson is convinced the winner will come from the final two groups, unless someone such as Retief Goosen (68) at 5-under 205 gets hot.

"All four of us are playing well," Mickelson said of the leaders and Appleby. "I expect at least one and probably two or three us to have good rounds in the 60s tomorrow and force the guys behind us to catch up with birdies."

If that's the case, it could be the first world title for any of them.

Even Mickelson got a chuckle when it was jokingly pointed out to him that he was the best player to have never won a World Golf Championship, 0-for-24 since the series began.

"They started midway through my career, so I haven't given them the priority like I do a major, or care about like a major," Mickelson said. "But they are always the best fields in the game, they're always on great golf courses, they're always on tough tests. So I think there's a lot of merit to whoever wins those."

AP

Vijay Singh, of Fiji, reacts after missing his putt for par on the 17th hole during the third round of the World Golf Championships at Firestone Country Club, Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008, in Akron, Ohio.

Nelson wins $6.3M in dispute with Cuban

DALLAS (AP)—Mavericks owner Mark Cuban must immediately pay Don Nelson $6.3 million, an arbitrator ruled in settling a long-running battle over the former Dallas coach's compensation package.

Nelson, now the Golden State Warriors' coach, claimed the money was owed to him from his time with the Mavericks from 1997-2005. The arbitrator, retired Judge Glen M. Ashworth, also rejected Cuban's claim that Nelson used "confidential information" to help the Warriors upset the top-seeded Mavs in the first round of the 2007 playoffs.

While the matter was resolved Thursday when the ruling was handed down, there are still plenty of hard feelings.

"He's relieved but feels that it never should have come to this, that Cuban had withheld this money really out of spite and it was just unnecessary," Nelson's attorney, John O'Connor, said by phone from his San Francisco home on Friday. "So, while Nelson's happy and relieved, he's not happy that he had to go through this and that Cuban would do this. We consider it a pretty shameful episode."

Cuban said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that he will pay now that the ruling is in place, but still contends that Nelson and his attorney aren't being truthful.

"The sad thing about the entire situation is that if Nellie would have come to me and asked to get out of his contract so that he could coach the GS Warriors, I would have let him," Cuban wrote. "Instead, he lied about it all and it took a lawsuit to find out the facts."

The Warriors hired Nelson in 2006. When he resigned as Mavericks coach in March 2005, Nelson still had a deal to remain a Dallas consultant through 2011 for about $200,000 a year.

In Nelson's claim, he contended he was never paid a consultant fee and thus was free to take another job. Cuban has said Nelson returned to coaching after repeatedly telling Cuban that Dallas would be his last job.

O'Connor said the deferred compensation was Nelson's earned retirement money. The terms, originally worked out during Ross Perot Jr.'s ownership, required that he be paid through 2012. O'Connor said Nelson was being paid about $1 million a year until Cuban stopped payments after Nelson took the Warriors job.

"What Cuban did is try to justify taking away somebody's retirement money," O'Connor said.

Mavs' Howard charged with drag racing

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Dallas Mavericks forward Josh Howard was arrested in his hometown after police said he was drag racing at nearly 40 mph above the posted speed.

He is charged with going 94 mph in a 55 mph zone, careless and reckless driving, and speed competition. He has been released from the Forsyth County jail on a written promise to appear in court Sept. 23.

Police said an officer saw a black Lexus and a silver Volkswagen speeding along U.S. 421 in Winston-Salem late Thursday night. The officer stopped the Lexus, and Howard was identified as the driver. Authorities didn't identify the other driver.

Howard played in high school in nearby Kernersville and was a standout at Wake Forest.

On January 12, 2000, Bobby Phills of the Charlotte Hornets was killed in a similar incident.

Phills was traveling behind teammate David Wesley at more than 75 mph when his Porsche spun and crossed into oncoming traffic. It hit another car, which in turn was struck in the rear by a minivan. Phills was pronounced dead at the scene. The drivers of the other two vehicles recovered.

Panthers receiver Steve Smith suspended 2 games

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Receiver Steve Smith was suspended two games by the Carolina Panthers after a training camp fight with cornerback Ken Lucas.

Smith, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, will continue to practice when training camp resumes Monday and will be allowed to participate in preseason games, coach John Fox said Saturday.

Lucas, who left the practice field at Wofford College on Friday with ice over his left eye, has a broken nose, Fox said. Smith was kicked out of practice and sent back to Charlotte.

"What (Smith) did was wrong and we take very serious and he is being punished severely for it," Fox said.

The melee came after both players had taken off their helmets in a break for starters during a special teams drill. It was unclear what provoked the fight. While the two have routinely jawed at each other in practice since Lucas signed with Carolina in 2005, they've never come to blows in view of reporters.

The suspension will cost Smith more than $205,000, a fraction of his base salary. Fox also seemed to issue a stern warning toward Smith and his future actions.

"He is still ours and he will have conditions," Fox said. "He knows what those are and we will move forward."

Lucas, who was not suspended, did not practice Saturday at Fan Fest and is listed as day-to-day. He showed up in the locker room Saturday morning unexpectedly and was mobbed by teammates, according to quarterback Jake Delhomme.

Delhomme said he was proud of Lucas for coming.

"Ken got overwhelmed with every single player coming up to him and telling him hello," Delhomme said. "I think it was great that he came out today. A lesser person would not have come out. But he did. And we can't wait to get him back."

Delhomme said he hasn't spoken with Smith, but has exchanged text messages.

"Steve will be back with us," Delhomme said. "I know he's extremely remorseful and he understands. But if we want to be a good football team we have to win without him."

Smith will miss the season opener at San Diego on Sept. 7 and the home opener the following Sunday against Chicago. He will not face any additional punishment from the league.

IOC strips gold from 2000 US relay team

BEIJING (AP)—The International Olympic Committee stripped gold medals Saturday from the U.S. men's 1,600-meter relay team that competed at the 2000 Olympics in the aftermath of Antonio Pettigrew's admission that he was doping at the time.

The IOC executive board disqualified the entire team, the fourth gold and sixth overall medal stripped from that U.S. track contingent in the past eight months for doping.

Three gold and two bronze were previously removed after Marion Jones confessed to using performance-enhancing drugs.

Saturday's decision was almost a formality after Pettigrew gave up his gold medal in June. During a trial involving former track coach Trevor Graham, he admitted in May that he used EPO and human growth hormone from 1997 to 2003.

Five of Pettigrew's teammates also lose their medals: Michael Johnson and twins Alvin and Calvin Harrison ran in the final; Jerome Young and Angelo Taylor ran in the preliminaries.

It was Johnson's fifth gold medal of his stellar career. He has already said he was giving it back because he felt "cheated, betrayed and let down" by Pettigrew's testimony. Johnson still holds world records in the 200 and 400 meters.

Three of the four runners from the relay final have been tainted by drugs.

Alvin Harrison accepted a four-year ban in 2004 after admitting he used performance-enhancers. Calvin Harrison tested positive for a banned stimulant in 2003 and was suspended for two years. Young was banned for life for doping violations.

"We support the action taken today by the IOC," USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel said. "Athletes who make the unacceptable choice to cheat should recognize that there will be consequences. Those consequences can be severe including the loss of medals and results. We're in full support of this action. In other matters like this in the past we've worked with the IOC to make certain medals will be returned, and we'll do so again."

The IOC also disqualified Pettigrew from his seventh-place finish in the individual 400 meters in Sydney. And the committee banned him from attending the upcoming Beijing Games "in any capacity," including as a competitor, coach or technical official. Pettigrew has retired from competition, and the U.S. Olympic Committee said there were no plans for him to be in Beijing.

The IOC had previously tried to strip the relay team after it became known that Young tested positive before the Sydney Games. But a decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport said the entire team should not be disqualified, and Pettigrew and the others were allowed to keep their medals.

Saturday's move came four months after the IOC stripped the gold from the U.S. women's 1,600-meter relay team and bronze from the women's 400-meter relay squad because of doping by Jones. She admitted last year that she used drugs at the time and returned her five medals, including gold in the 100 meters and 200 meters and bronze in the long jump.

The IOC has put off any decision on reallocating the U.S. medals until later this year when it takes into account all the files from the BALCO investigation in the United States.

No time frame for a decision on medal redistribution has been set, although an eight-year statute of limitations expires on Oct. 1.

Nigeria finished second in the men's 1,600-meter relay, with Jamaica third and the Bahamas fourth.

"That's such a shame, especially for the ones who were clean, and it's most important for the athletes who were second," Sanya Richards, who won gold on the 1,600-meter women's relay in 2004, said from training camp in Dalian. "You lose that opportunity to stand on top of the podium and feel the joy of winning the race. Those are the people who hurt the worst when there are cheaters ahead of them. Giving back the medals is just a technicality because you can't repair the hurt feelings and the hard work that went into it."

The IOC is reluctant to hand Jones' 100 gold to silver medalist Katerina Thanou, a Greek sprinter at the center of a doping scandal at the 2004 Athens Games. She and fellow Greek runner Kostas Kenteris missed drug tests on the eve of the opening ceremony and claimed they were injured in a motorcycle accident. They were forced to pull out of the games and were later suspended for two years.

An IOC disciplinary panel will meet next Thursday to consider whether Thanou can run at the Beijing Games. The 33-year-old sprinter qualified for the Greek team in the 100, but the IOC is reviewing her eligibility.

Thanou's lawyer has threatened legal action if she is barred from the games.

AP

International Olympic Committee (IOC) Communications Director Giselle Davies tells a news conference Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008 in Beijing.

Dodgers beat Diamondbacks to close NL West gap to two games

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers closed within two games of Arizona in the National League West by beating the Diamondbacks 4-2 on Saturday.

New Dodger acquisitions Manny Ramirez and Casey Blake hit their first home runs as National Leaguers to complement a strong pitching effort by Hiroki Kuroda.

Kuroda allowed just one run in 7 1-3 innings, striking out six and walking none—a marked contrast to recent form that saw him give up 20 earned runs in 18-1/3 innings.

Ramirez, playing his second game since the Dodgers obtained him from Boston on Thursday, drove the first pitch he saw deep into the seats in left-center in the first inning for a 2-0 lead.

Phillies 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, pitcher Joe Blanton won his first game since joining Philadelphia, steering the in-form Phillies past St. Louis.

The former Oakland pitcher gave up only four hits and struck out five in seven innings.

The NL East-leading Philadelphia needed just two solo homers to get the victory. The Phillies have homered in 11 straight games, and have won six of seven.

Greg Dobbs, who leads the majors with 20 pinch hits, hit his fourth homer of the season on the first pitch of the third inning. In the fourth, Ryan Howard hit his 31st for his major league leading 96th RBI.

Marlins 5, Rockies 3

In Miami, pitcher Ricky Nolasco struck out a career-high 13 batters to guide Florida over Colorado.

Nolasco allowed just four hits over eight innings and did not walk a batter to earn his first win in five appearances.

Jeff Baker finished with three RBIs. His two-run homer in the second inning put Florida ahead, and he drove in another run in the third.

Brewers 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Milwaukee equaled a club record of nine straight road wins by beating Atlanta.

C.C. Sabathia pitched deep into the game in another terrific outing for the Brewers, who stayed four games off NL Central leader Chicago.

Sabathia struck out nine in 8 1-3 innings, allowing only two runs. He has a 1.88 ERA in six starts with Milwaukee, which acquired him from Cleveland last month.

Prince Fielder led off the seventh inning with his 24th homer of the season, tying the game 1-1. Milwaukee added a further run in the seventh before Fielder hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

Cubs 5, Pirates 1

In Chicago, the home team won its sixth game in seven by beating Pittsburgh.

Reed Johnson had three hits and Geovany Soto drove in two runs for the NL Central-leading Cubs.

Astros 5, Mets 4, 10 innings

In Houston, Lance Berkman sprinted to home plate on a lined sacrifice fly to give Houston a dramatic win over New York.

The Astros won after leveling the game with a memorable play in the bottom of the ninth. New York was leading 4-2 when Houston loaded the bases with one out.

A lined single to leftfield brought home two runners at one, with Mark Loretta right on the heels of Hunter Pence. Both crashed into the New York catcher in a play at the plate to score and put the Mets backstop out of the game with an ankle injury.

Giants 2, Padres 0

In San Diego, Barry Zito pitched a season-high eight innings to shut down San Diego and steer San Francisco to a narrow victory.

Zito, a former Cy Young award winner who has the most losses in the majors this year after a dire start to the season, gave up only three hits in a pitching duel against San Diego ace Jake Peavy. Each pitcher allowed just two hits through the first six innings.

The game was scoreless until the seventh when the Giants broke through.

Nationals 10, Reds 6

In Washington, infielder Pete Orr picked up his first RBIs in more than 15 months as Washington beat Cincinnati.

Orr slapped a pinch-hit, two-run single into left field in the seventh inning to put Washington ahead to stay.

His single capped a four-run inning and gave the Nationals something they haven't had since June—consecutive wins at home.

Orr has only 20 RBIs in 399 career at-bats.

Yankees 8, Angels 2

In New York, Mike Mussina retired the final 17 batters he faced, Jose Molina hit one of New York's four homers and the Yankees snapped Los Angeles' five-game winning streak.

Alex Rodriguez, Wilson Betemit and Bobby Abreu all homered and Mussina (14-7), a six-time Gold Glove winner, made several stellar plays on the mound.

Royals 9, White Sox 7

In Kansas City, Jose Guillen and Billy Butler both homered off an ineffective Mark Buehrle, and Esteban German had a two-run triple to lead Kansas City to a 9-7 win over Chicago on a hot, muggy Saturday afternoon.

Buehrle (8-10) allowed the White Sox to hit four home runs.

Red Sox 12, A's 2

In Boston, Jason Bay hit his first home run with Boston, Kevin Youkilis added a pair of two-run homers and the Red Sox cruised past Oakland.

Bay finished 1-for-4 and has reached base safely in six of his first 11 at-bats with Boston. After getting swept by the Angels earlier in the week, the Red Sox have won two in a row.

Rays 9, Tigers 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., rookie Evan Longoria homered and drove in three runs and right-hander Andy Sonnanstine won for the first time in nearly a month.

Indians 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Paul Byrd tossed seven sharp innings to win his third straight start and Kelly Shoppach hit a two-run homer to lead Cleveland.

Blue Jays 6, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Rod Barajas and Scott Rolen each had two-run doubles in the sixth inning, helping Toronto rally to a victory over Texas.

Orioles 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Jeremy Guthrie retired 26 of the final 28 batters he faced in his first career complete game, allowing just four hits in Baltimore's win over Seattle.

Last season's ROY rivals now MVP top contenders

MANILA, Philippines—For lording it over the rest of the field in the season-opening Philippine Cup and continuing his generally consistent plays in the Fiesta Conference, Kelly Williams' shot at the PBA's biggest individual award remains alive.

The Smart Philippine Cup Best Player of the Conference remains the leader in the chase for the Most Valuable Player diadem despite his Sta. Lucia Realty team winding up sixth in the season-ending tournament.

Williams has racked up an average of 35.5 statistical points through 53 games in the two tournaments, well ahead of Air21's equally do-it-all forward, Arwind Santos' who has an average 33.9 through 42 games.

Those total averages should serve the two, especially the reigning Slam Dunk champion in good stead.

Curiously, these two players were the ones who battled it out for last season's Rookie of the Year plum won in the end by Williams.

Despite some rung-climbing moves their closest pursuers have little to draw from to jack up their respective SPs.

Barangay Ginebra's Jayjay Helterbrand made the biggest gains of all from a sterling Fiesta Conference campaign that saw the Kings make the Finals. He now has a 32.1 average SPs, vaulting him to fourth from seventh after the first conference. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

SUNGA

From Page 28

Championship Flight with two-day scores of 151 and 152, respectively. Jo recorded a 74-77 and Wabol a 77-75.

Aside from Sunga winning the marquee division of the 2008 edition of the region's biggest golf tournament, the TOC also hailed champions from six other divisions—A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors Flight, Super Seniors Flight, and Ladies Flight.

Ahn Jin was without peer in A Flight after his 154—built around a 75 and a 79—topped the division. Federico P. Flores was runner-up with his two-day total of 158 (80-78), while Peter Tenorio was third with his 160 (79-81).

B Flight, meanwhile, belonged to youth golfer Luis Byun who finished with a 158—78 in Day 1 and 80 in Day 2. Mario S. Salas and Prescil D. Azarcon complete the Top 3 in B Flight with their 160 (81-79) and 161 (81-80), respectively.

Azarcon actually finished tied with Leo Ganacias and Asterio Tawanpiy but took the top plum in B Flight after topping the two in a scorecard tiebreak.

Ted Malaran, for his part, reigned supreme in C Flight after nipping Mel Grey in yet another scorecard tiebreak—the lone championship that had to go to the scorecards.

Malaran and Grey came away with identical 178s in the two-day competition with the former firing a 91-87 and the latter a 90-88. Victor D. Pangelinan, meanwhile, copped third place with his 180 (85-95) with Das Krishnan 180 (89-91) at fourth after losing to Pangelinan in a scorecard tiebreak.

Retired presiding judge Edward Manibusan won the Seniors Flight with his 154 (80-74) with Nick Sablan a close second with his 155 (80-75). Kyonam Kim wound up in third place after matching Sablan's 155 (75-80), while returning Tony Satur wound up in fourth with his 159 (81-78), the same score put up by fifth placer Toshiyuki Mori (80-79).

Lito Mendoza took the top plum in the Super Seniors Flight after the 62-year-old businessman came away with a two-day total of 161. Mendoza shot an 81 and an 80 last weekend.

Frank C. Castro and Jesus Taitano finished second and third in the Super Seniors with scores of 163 (84-79) and 167 (81-86), respectively.

Last but definitely the least, veteran golfer Noriko Togawa topped the Ladies Flight with her 161 (81-80). Fellow Commonwealth Women's Golf Association member Shiori Onoue and Rose Tarpley came in second and third with scores of 168 (86-82) and 171 (90-81), respectively.

The 13th Tournament of Champions, which utilized both the east and west courses of the Kagman venue, drew a total of 195 golfers for a weekend of golf-for-a-cause.

This year's TOC marked the 13th year of the tournament on Saipan. Since its inception, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund. This money has been used for the traffic medians from Garapan to the Palms Resort Saipan, the revitalization of the Garapan special district, the enhanced beautification of the Paseo de Marianas, lighting of the Beach Pathway, landscaping on the port to path walkway and other beautification projects.

AIKEN

From Page 28

ment of head and body shots.

Blood and sweat spilled freely on the ring as both crimsoned fighters grappled like there was no tomorrow with referee James Ravilla trying his best to keep them away from the ropes.

In the end, it was only fitting that the Aiken and Fitial match was decided by the judges—Jesse Palacios, Greg Calvo, and Ray Alvarez. The latter only judged the Aiken-Fitial match after Ed Arriola Jr. begged off due to his close friendship with the two fighters.

Aiken won the fight via split decision after two of the judges scored the bout in his favor, 29-29 and 29-28. The third judge, meanwhile, scored the fight 29-28 for Fitial.

The win improved Aiken's record to 7-2, while the loss dropped Fitial to 13 wins, seven losses, and one draw.

In the semi main event, Adelbai dominated the first two rounds but lost steam in the final three minutes of the contest, which was just the opening Teregeyo was looking for.

Adelbai forced the action to the ground in the first two rounds where he tried to force a submission out of the Marianas Elite fighter.

Teregeyo, however, was able to wiggle free from the Trench Tech stalwart's vice grip-like clutches in many occasions and even tried to change the tempo of the fight by taking on Adelbai standing up, where he clearly had the advantage.

Early in the third, Teregeyo surprised Adelbai with a takedown of his own and dictated the tempo until the final bell. His comeback obviously left an impression on the judges, who scored the bout 27-26, 27-2 9, and 29-28 for the draw.

It was the first draw in the fighting careers of both Adelbai and Teregeyo, who came into the fight with 7-3 and 3-2 records, respectively.

While the two main events trilled the crowd, the excitement was most palpable in the Tapua'ialupe-Mercurio middleweight bout.

Fighting out of UTC, Huntington Beach, Mercurio showed some fascinating moves early but Tapua'ialupe, looking slimmer and faster than his previous matches, was bent in giving the mainlander his first loss in six bouts.

Both tall and strong, the match produced non-stop action on the ground and while the two MMA fighters were standing up.

At one point in the match, Mercurio had Tapua'ialupe trapped on the latter's own corner only to have things reversed moments later. Tapua'ialupe would then force the action to the ground where he trapped Mercurio on a complicated leg-lock and proceeded to bang away on the mainlander's face, leaving him bleeding from the nose.

Mercurio, who had UFC legend Kimo Leopoldo on his corner, would later tap out after Tapua'ialupe skillfully applied a rear-naked choke on him.

Throughout all three rounds, the crowd intermittently chanted "Luka, Luka, Luka," which obviously gave Tapua'ialupe the extra push to take the fight to Mercurio.

While the loss left Mercurio with a 5-1 record, the win was the sixth in 11 outings for Tapua'ialupe, who fought out of D.A.T. Gym.

Details of the other eight preliminary MMA fights and one women's boxing match will be published in the *Saipan Tribune* in the coming days.

Predator or Prey is the first foray into the local MMA scene by Gorilla Warfare Productions, Inc.

GREENVILLE

From Page 28

formed three years ago when District 1 was split. Last year Greenville won the South Regional, but went 2-2 in the BLWS.

Saturday was sweet redemption for the team, which lost its BLWS opener to the defending world champion District 1 host team last Saturday but responded by winning five straight games and becoming world champs.

"This is amazing," Roth said. "I've been playing with Will Owens since I was 9, Chipper (Daniels) since I was 9, (Matt) Pegler since I was 10 and Bo (Thomason) since I was 12. I knew and had played with just about everybody except the Mauldin guys—and they're some of my best friends now."

Saturday's victory was an exercise in patience. Puerto Rico starter Raul Rivera was nearly unhittable for six innings, keeping Greenville off balance with a 90-plus mph fastball and breaking balls that were 20 mph slower. Rivera pitched six scoreless inning, allowing just five hits, walking one and striking out six.

Rivera reached his pitched count limit after Pegler opened the seventh with a single down the left field line and gave way to relievers Roberto Torres and Ruben Sierra. But they couldn't hold a 4-0 lead.

"They were new blood and it was like Shark Week for us," Greenville manager Jeff Young said. "We got our leadoff guy on and that gave us a chance to do something."

After Pegler's leadoff single, Paul Nitto of J.L. Mann High reached on a fielder's choice and Corn was safe at second on a throwing error. Mauldin's Chris Cox bunted and reached safely on another throwing error to load the bases.

Thomason followed by lining an RBI single to right to score pinch runner Colby Corn and Nitto also scored on the play when the right fielder misplayed the ball for an error. Suddenly, it was 4-2 and Greenville had new life.

"The way we were able to win is a testament to the way these players go about their business," Young said.

The business continued when Daniels reached on another error to re-load the bases. Scott then was hit by a pitch, driving in Cox and cutting the deficit to 4-3. Owens then reached on a fielder's choice. Thomason was thrown out at home trying to score, but then Roth stepped up and lined his game-winning hit.

"I was standing on second telling myself that I'm scoring on a base hit no matter what," Scott said. "I was pretty confident. We had our 3 and 4 guys coming up and I knew we had two opportunities to get me in from second." ***(greenvilleonline.com)***

RANGERS

From Page 28

Rogolifoi said the finale of the Rangers' and Falcons' race-to-two wins series is scheduled for tomorrow, Aug. 5, at the Oleai Sports Center.

Game 2 of the other semifinals between unbeaten and pennant champions Rock Steady and last playoff qualifier San Roque D-9ers, meanwhile, will be played tonight.

Rogolifoi also reminded 2008 BSML coaches and managers to attend a brief meeting today following the scheduled 12pm meeting of the 2008 SML Fall League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The NMASA Hall of Famer explained that the meeting will determine who will be this season's Rookie of the Year, Best Catcher, Best Pitcher, Coach of the Year, Manager of the Year, Sportsmanship Awardee, and most valuable player.

For more information about the 2008 BSML, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	65	44	.596	_
Boston	63	48	.568	3
New York	60	50	.545	5 1/2
Toronto	55	55	.500	10 1/2
Baltimore	53	56	.486	12

Central Division

Chicago	61	48	.560	_
Minnesota	61	49	.555	1/2
Detroit	55	55	.500	6 1/2
Kansas City	51	60	.459	11
Cleveland	48	61	.440	13

West Division

Los Angeles	69	41	.627	_
Texas	57	54	.514	12 1/2
Oakland	53	56	.486	15 1/2
Seattle	41	69	.373	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	60	50	.545	_
Florida	59	52	.532	1 1/2
New York	58	52	.527	2
Atlanta	50	60	.455	10
Washington	40	70	.364	20

Central Division

Chicago	66	45	.595	_
Milwaukee	62	49	.559	4
St. Louis	62	51	.549	5
Houston	52	57	.477	13
Pittsburgh	51	59	.464	14 1/2
Cincinnati	51	60	.459	15

West Division

Arizona	57	53	.518	_
Los Angeles	55	55	.500	2
Colorado	50	62	.446	8
San Francisco	46	63	.422	10 1/2
San Diego	42	69	.378	15 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 1
Milwaukee 4, Atlanta 2
Houston 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 10 innings
Florida 5, Colorado 3
Washington 10, Cincinnati 6
Philadelphia 2, St. Louis 1
San Francisco 2, San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 4, Arizona 2
N.Y. Yankees 8, L.A. Angels 2
Kansas City 9, Chicago White Sox 7
Tampa Bay 9, Detroit 3
Boston 12, Oakland 2
Cleveland 5, Minnesota 1
Toronto 6, Texas 4
Baltimore 3, Seattle 1

BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL SCORES

AKRON, Ohio (AP)–Scores Saturday from the World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational, a US$8 million (5.1 million aeuro) PGA Tour event on the 7,400-yard, par-70 South Course at Firestone Country Club:

Third Round

Lee Westwood	70-65-67	202
Vijay Singh	67-66-69	202
Phil Mickelson	68-66-68	202
Stuart Appleby	70-66-67	203
Retief Goosen	66-71-68	205
Darren Clarke	70-71-65	206
Chris DiMarco	68-70-68	206
D.J. Trahan	69-67-70	206
Rory Sabbatini	69-67-70	206
Miguel A. Jimenez	70-66-70	206
Daniel Chopra	67-74-66	207
Chad Campbell	68-71-68	207
Trevor Immelman	75-64-68	207
Ian Poulter	70-68-69	207
Hunter Mahan	71-66-70	207
Zach Johnson	67-68-72	207
Peter Lonard	69-66-72	207
Vaughn Taylor	72-67-69	208
Justin Leonard	68-70-70	208
Charles Howell III	68-70-70	208
Jim Furyk	68-69-71	208
Sean O'Hair	68-67-73	208
Justin Rose	71-70-68	209
Sergio Garcia	69-72-68	209
Paul Casey	70-71-68	209
Nick O'Hern	70-68-71	209
Tim Clark	67-71-71	209
J.B. Holmes	69-68-72	209
Robert Karlsson	71-67-71	209
Paul McGinley	70-67-72	209
K.J. Choi	73-67-70	210
Stewart Cink	68-68-74	210
Henrik Stenson	73-70-68	211
Brendan Jones	69-73-69	211
Robert Allenby	71-70-70	211
Scott Verplank	71-70-70	211
Stephen Ames	69-71-71	211
Padraig Harrington	69-75-68	212
Ernie Els	69-74-69	212
Chez Reavie	68-74-70	212
Steve Lowery	75-67-70	212
Fredrik Jacobson	71-71-70	212
Ross Fisher	69-73-70	212
Rocco Mediate	68-73-71	212
Oliver Wilson	71-69-72	212
Steve Webster	68-72-72	212
Steve Stricker	68-69-75	212
Hidemasa Hoshino	75-73-65	213
Angel Cabrera	72-73-68	213
Brandt Snedeker	68-76-69	213
Anthony Kim	71-72-70	213
Woody Austin	71-70-72	213
Steve Flesch	70-70-73	213
Aaron Baddeley	79-69-66	214
Richard Finch	69-75-70	214
David Toms	72-72-70	214
Niclas Fasth	71-71-72	214
Graeme McDowell	70-71-73	214
Richard Green	72-73-70	215
David Howell	70-75-70	215
Scott Strange	68-74-73	215
J.J. Henry	69-73-73	215
Rod Pampling	69-71-75	215
James Kingston	73-72-71	216
Boo Weekley	72-73-71	216
Kenny Perry	74-69-73	216
Prayad Marksaeng	70-73-73	216
Nick Dougherty	72-76-69	217
Adam Scott	69-76-72	217
Lucas Glover	70-75-72	217
Andres Romero	73-71-73	217
Geoff Ogilvy	71-67-79	217
Soren Hansen	75-73-70	218
Pablo Larrazabal	72-75-71	218
Martin Kaymer	72-79-68	219
Johnson Wagner	70-74-75	219
Colin Montgomerie	72-71-76	219
Craig Parry	70-75-75	220
Brett Rumford	75-70-76	221
Mark Brown	80-75-76	231

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Villafria, Finance/Shipping top headlines

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's not every week that a CNMI athlete competes in an off-island marathon, so for successfully completing the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25, Ronald Villafria topped all sports headlines this past week.

The longtime nonresident worker successfully negotiated the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388-foot mountain in four hours and 20 minutes. He was among the 1,200 of the 3,000 sign-ups to finish the grueling marathon.

Finance/Shipping also made headlines this past seven days after it took home the championship of the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last July 24 at the TDHC staff housing basketball court.

The team rallied from a 14-point deficit in the second half to nip Casino Titans, 102-100, in Game 3 of their best-of-three finals.

Tinian Casino actually drew first blood in the race-to-two wins final series by beating Finance/Shipping 91-71 in Game 1. Finance/Shipping, however, took Game 2 with a 75-63 win to force the third and deciding match.

The Philippine Bowling Association also celebrated its finest keglers during its 2007-2008 awards ceremony last July 27 at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

Leading the awardees were PBA Bowler of the Year Rusty Musca, Classified winners Kitz Barja (Class A), Allan Hernandez (Class B), and Ed Echavez (Class C).

Winners of the No Tap Tournament and Saturday Night League were also feted as Chi/ken Tsayser and Robert Talavera received their hardware from organizers.

Last week also saw Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart bid the CNMI goodbye after making the islands his home the past four years.

During his stint at the helm of SSC, Stewart continued the tradition of excellence SSC founders Bill and Jean Sakovich started as well as introduced his own programs to the Commonwealth's oldest swim club.

Host PTI, meanwhile, continued its domination of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League, scoring a 105-87 victory over fellow guest team Bank of Guam Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Century Insurance also had everything covered during the 24th season of the Philippine Bowling Association-Capital Bowling Center Thursday Night League and romped away with the overall championship based on its 50-22 win-loss record.

Undefeated Rock Steady, meanwhile, leaned on a five-run explosion in the sixth to deep-six the San Roque D9ers, 11-4, Monday night in the continuation of Game 1 of their best-of-three semifinals in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Last but not the least, the CNMI wrapped up its 2008 Big League World Series stint with a 12-2 loss against Germany Thursday at the J.B. "Red" Owens Complex in Easley, South Carolina.

It was the fourth setback in as many games for the Asia-Pacific champions, which lost its matches against Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Canada via the 10-run mercy rule.

Far left, Ronald Villafria poses at the top of the 12,388-foot Mt. Fujiyama after successfullycompleting the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, Ronald Villafria poses with a friend prior to tackling the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finance/Shipping players and supporters proudly display their championship trophy and individual medals after winning the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last July 24 at the TDHC staff housing basketball court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The champions and runners-up of Northern Marianas Badminton Federation's Junior Badminton Tournament join participants of the fledgling group's youth summer clinic in showing off their certificates of completion last July 11 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also in photo are NMBF members.

MARK RABAGO

The Philippine Bowling Association 2008 Classified Tournament Class B champion Ferdie Generoso receives his trophy and winnings during the 2007-2008 PBA award banquet held last July 27 at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

MARK RABAGO

The Philippine Bowling Association 2008 Classified Tournament Class B runner-up Raphael Zapanta receives his trophy and winnings during the 2007-2008 PBA award banquet held last July 27 at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

DAN KIMBALL

Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Stewart drives away from his last meet on Saipan pleased with his swimmers accomplishments.

GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The CNMI wrapped up its 2008 Big League World Series stint with a 12-2 loss against Germany Thursday. Photo above shows one of the parents taking photos.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Bowling Association treasurer and veteran bowling tournament organizer Ross Zapanta addresses everyone in attendance during the 2007-2008 PBA award banquet held last July 27 at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

Villafria, Finance/ Shipping top headlines

It's not every week that a CNMI athlete competes in an off-island marathon, so for successfully completing the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon last July 25, Ronald Villafria topped all sports headlines this past week.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mickelson, Singh, Westwood tied atop Firestone

Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh slugged it out in the trees and on the greens Saturday throughout an up-and-down day at the Bridgestone Invitational until they wound up in a tie for the lead.

24

Aiken beats Fitial in Predator or Prey main event

ARMAN ANASAN

Charlz "The Predator" Aiken, right, catches Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial with a right hand during the main event of Saturday night's Predator or Prey held at Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

MARK RABAGO

Slade "The Rage" Adelbai, top, mounts Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo in an effort to force a submission in the semi main event of Predator or Prey.

MARK RABAGO

Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe, left, in action against Johnny Mercurio in their middleweight bout in Predator or Prey.

By MARK RABAGO
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First of three-part series

Charlz "The Predator" Aiken out-pointed Kelvin Fitial to win his second straight bout against "The Big Hit" even as Slade "The Rage" Adelbai and Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo fought to a draw as Predator or Prey didn't disappoint fight fans last Saturday with the two main events going the distance.

The capacity crowd that filled Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall also got an extra treat when local boy, Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe, upset mainland-based fighter Johnny Mercurio in one of nine preliminary bouts that also included the CNMI's first-ever women's boxing match.

Coming off a loss against Roque Martinez last week in Guam, Aiken came out the aggressor in the match between the two 232-lb. heavyweights.

Aiken, fighting out of Predator Combat Team, stood toe-to-toe against Fitial with neither fighter flinching as both of them bombed away and absorbed each other's best punches and kicks the majority of the first two rounds.

The match went to the ground—or more specifically the mat—in the final three minutes of the contest with Aiken taking the initiative and hitting the Marianas Elite fighter with an assort-

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Sunga leads winners of 2008 TOC

By MARK RABAGO
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Louie J. Sunga denied the three-peat attempt of Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol by winning Championship Flight of this past weekend's 13th Tournament of Champions at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The Guamanian fired 72 yesterday in Day 2 of the two-day tournament. The even-par score plus the three-over-par 75 he fired on Day 1 last Saturday gave Sunga a three-over-par 147 for the tournament.

A stroke behind Sunga in the Championship Flight was first day leader Gi Yeong Kim, who came away with a four-over-par 148. Kim shot a division leading 73 last Saturday but couldn't sustain his charge Sunday and wound up with a 75.

Adam Hardwicke came in third after the chief public defender carded a 74 and 76 in the two days for a two-round total of six-over-par 150.

Youth golfer Charlie Jo and Wabol complete the Top 5 in the

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MARK RABAGO

Louie J. Sunga tees off from the 18th and final hole in Day 2 of the 13th Tournament of Champions yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

Greenville wins Big League World Series

EASLEY, SC—One may have missed the smile on Jordan Scott's face on national television because he was buried at home plate under 16 teammates, but rest assured it was there.

"Oh yeah, I was smiling," Scott said. "It was wild, but having everybody pile on top of you is the best feeling I've ever had."

Scott's headlong dive into home plate capped a five-run rally and lifted Greenville County past Puerto Rico 5-4 Saturday afternoon in the Big League World Series championship game.

Michael Roth, Scott's former teammate at Riverside High, was the hero with the bat, driving a two-run single to left to drive in the tying and winning runs.

"I'd been struggling the whole tournament," said Roth, a University of South Carolina-bound pitcher who entered the game with a .233 batting average in the BLWS. "I was just trying to hit one hard."

The world title was the first ever for the Greenville County players representing South Carolina District 7, which was

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Rangers ahead of Falcons in power outage-interrupted third game

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Game 3 of Ford Rangers' and Tanapag Falcons' best-of-three semifinals in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League was postponed for the second time in a week after a power interruption once again hit the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field Friday night.

According to SML commissioner Tony Rogolifoi, the continuation of the final game between the Rangers and Falcons was played until the third inning when the power went out again with the score pegged at 10-3, in favor of the Rangers.

The game was originally played last Tuesday with Rangers getting the jump against the Falcons, leading 8-1 in the bottom of the first with the Joeten Motors Corp.-sponsored team in the offensive and with still one out remaining.

Fast forward to Friday's continued-then-postponed game, B.J. Sablan hit a towering homerun over left field in the second inning to score the Falcons' third run and the Rangers added two unearned runs to make it a seven-run ballgame.

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